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THE TIMES

No. 65,400

TUESDAY OCTOBER 17 1995

Director-general refuses to go voluntarily over damning report on escape from Parkhurst

Sacked prisons chief vents his fury on Howard

By Richard Ford and Philip Webster

THE head of the prison service fired a furious parting shot at Michael Howard last night after being sacked over a damning report on the state of Britain's jails.

Derek Lewis, who was dismissed after refusing to meet a resignation deadline set by Mr Howard on Sunday, spoke of his "great regret" that the Home Secretary had chosen not to give the prison service the genuine ministerial support that it needed.

And in an interview with *The Times* he said that the complex management task of running the prisons was made "infinitely more difficult" when there was inconsistency of policy and too little operational freedom to get on with the job. Asked whether he was angry he said: "Yes. Had he been treated shabbily, he replied: 'Yes'."

Mr Lewis—who received a £30,000 bonus on top of his £125,000 salary last year and could now receive up to £200,000 compensation—was sacked in spite of a personal plea from senior prison service managers who demanded and got a meeting with the Home Secretary on Sunday. One source in the service said that Mr Howard had got rid of Mr Lewis in the interests of self-preservation.

The Home Secretary faced calls for his own resignation after telling the Commons that he had decided reluctantly and with sadness that a change at the top of the prison service was needed after serious criticisms of Parkhurst and its management over the escape in January. Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, accused him of making Mr Lewis a scapegoat and said that if anyone was to go it should be him.

But Mr Howard said the evening letter with General Sir John Learmont's report

into the escape had made clear "that responsibilities ultimately reach the level of the Prisons Board, and that is, where criticism stops. Sir John has not found that any policy decision of mine, directly or indirectly, caused the escape."

Mr Howard was given an uncomfortable ride, but the pressure on him would have been greater had the House been better attended.

His statement came after the publication of Sir John's report, which not only described the Parkhurst escape as unacceptable and inexcusable, but also strongly criticised the management of the prison service since its semi-privatisation under Mr Lewis in 1992.

In one passage, the report concluded: "Any organisation which boasts one Statement of Purpose, one Vision, five Values, six Challenges, seven Strategic Priorities and eight Key Performance Indicators without any clear correlation between them is producing a recipe for total confusion and exasperation."

The Parkhurst escape—and an earlier one from Whitemoor jail—were not aberrations, but symptomatic of prisons throughout the country.

With Mr Lewis watching from the public gallery Mr Howard told MPs: "The present director-general has served in his post for nearly three years. I pay tribute to him for what he has achieved. But I cannot overlook the serious criticism in the report. I believe the service requires a change of leadership to carry forward the programme of reforms which is needed and to increase public confidence in the security of our prisons."

Home Office sources said the Mr Lewis's position had become untenable when the prisoners escaped from Parkhurst soon after he had assumed "Mr Howard that security problems at the jail had been dealt with. Judge Stephen Tumin, chief inspector of prisons, had been so worried during an inspection last October that he alerted

Mr Howard and Mr Lewis to the problem.

But Mr Lewis was not prepared to go quietly. He swiftly made public a four-page letter to Mr Howard complaining that he had been given only 45 minutes to discuss the report. He also disclosed that Mr Howard had originally given him a deadline of 5 pm on Sunday to resign at the end of the year.

"What the service most needs at this juncture is continuity, consistency and genuine ministerial support," he wrote. "It is a matter of great regret that you have not chosen to give it that support."

Many of the report's recommendations had already been put into effect or been proposed, and he had the unanimous confidence of his board, which also believed the service needed continuity more than anything. "I was, therefore, unable to accept your proposal that I should resign."

Mr Lewis also pointed out that his contract had been extended in April after Sir John had given Mr Howard a detailed briefing on the conclusions to be published in the report. His letter finishes with a reference to the report's comments on the "very high level" of ministerial involvement in operational matters.

The burden of producing a thousand documents for ministers over a four-month period had been an enormous drain and distraction, Mr Lewis wrote. "It is a great disappointment to me that in the 13 months since the Whitemoor escape, you have required so much paper but have paid so little attention to prisons themselves, with only some six visits—fewer than in the preceding 13 months."

Mr Lewis's response was regarded by Whitehall insiders as savage and unprecedented, and he had the sympathy of Labour MPs, who described him as a "fall guy". Mr Straw said: "What we have been treated to today is the spectacle of the Secretary of State demeaning his office, failing to acknowledge those responsibilities and instead going for his now familiar and



An angry Derek Lewis after his sacking. He said he had been treated shabbily

'Prison Service most needs continuity'

By Richard Ford
HOME CORRESPONDENT

DEREK LEWIS, the sacked director-general of the Prison Service, last night sent a four-page letter to the Home Secretary, highlighting his bitterness.

"The Prison Service has met the targets set by ministers and implemented the enormous policy changes that they had been asked to in the past 12 months, successfully. There has been no disruption in the system."

In a rebuke to ministers who have reversed their policy of keeping all but the most serious prisoners out of jail to one of "prison works", he said it was no wonder that Prison Service members were anxious and demoralised.

"It is an immensely difficult task. It is made infinitely more difficult when there is inconsistency of policy, significant changes in policy and when there is not the operational freedom to get on and do it. It is clear that the Prison Service does not have operational independence."

Mr Lewis said that he was angry at his sacking and that he had been treated shabbily. He said it was for others to judge if he had been made a scapegoat. He also said that if anybody from the private sector sought his advice on taking the job, he would tell them to think very carefully about whether they would receive long-term support.

In his letter to Michael Howard, Mr Lewis warned that day to day political involvement in the service would prevent it from realising its potential. "What the service most needs at this juncture is continuity, consistency and genuine ministerial support."

Continued on page 2, col 5

Howarth and Portillo clash

By James Landale, Political Reporter

ALAN HOWARTH clashed with Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, last night as he made his first intervention from Labour benches in the Commons since defecting from the Tories.

Mr Portillo accused Mr Howarth of verbosity and questioned his loyalty when Labour's prize defector interrupted his speech during the defence estimates debate in the Commons.

The MP for Stratford-on-Avon intervened to ask several questions about Britain's export of arms overseas. He asked Mr Portillo about Britain's "quite disproportionate

commitment to the export of arms" and whether he had considered the dangers of Britain's "shrinking manufacturing base being so dependent on a particular sector of the export market."

He also asked Mr Portillo if he would accept a Labour demand for a diversification of Britain's defence capability.

At this point, Michael Morris, the Deputy Speaker, stopped Mr Howarth and reprimanded him by saying that he had been in the House long enough to know that interventions should be "one question, not six". Mr Portillo then said to the MP: "I see you

are no less verbose since your transition to the other side of the House. We have been discussing the qualities of characteristics in the Armed Forces, such as loyalty. It is interesting to see you rise in this place."

Earlier, Mr Howarth waited outside the Commons chamber to time his entry to coincide with the first Question Time appearance of Michael Heseltine as Deputy Prime Minister. As Mr Heseltine rose, Mr Howarth strode in, surrounded by a group of Labour MPs.

Headline halted, page 8

Carnival mood at black rally

Thousands of black men marched in Washington to pledge a new commitment to families and communities. The turnout was a triumph for Louis Farrakhan, the Nation of Islam leader and messages of racial hatred were drowned by the mood of celebration. Page 11

Hurd's £250,000 for two-day week

Douglas Hurd, the former Foreign Secretary, is to be paid £250,000 a year for working two days a week as deputy chairman of NatWest Markets. Mr Hurd signed his contract yesterday. Page 25

Kevin Maxwell tells of childhood in fear

By Michael Horsnell

ROBERT MAXWELL, the late publishing tycoon, bullied his family and "put the fear of God" into those who worked for him, his son Kevin told an Old Bailey jury yesterday.

Starting what is expected to be at least two weeks of evidence—on the 82nd day of his trial—Kevin Maxwell, 36, opened his defence by describing the childhood fear in which he felt for his autocratic father, who died mysteriously at sea in 1991.

Kevin Maxwell is accused of conspiring with the former

Labour MP to defraud Maxwell pensioners out of shares worth more than £100 million in an attempt to shore up his father's imperilled companies.

Robert Maxwell, he said, was a "spectacular risk taker" whose fortune was worth more than £1 billion by the late 1980s. His father's hard-earned success was based on a desire for power. He dominated those around him through his charisma, bullying and physical "bulk".

Living in fear, page 3

Welcome to Teesside, now home of the samba

By Paul Wilkinson

THE sound of samba reverberated across Middlesbrough last night as carnival fever swept fans welcoming Juninho, the £45 million soccer star dubbed the new Pele.

Oswaldo Gboido Junior—his nickname means "little boy"—was mobbed by journalists when he landed by private jet a day earlier than expected. The 5ft 5in star shrugged: "What's all the fuss about, has

someone stolen the Crown Jewels?" Excitement over the first appearance of the Brazilian player has been bubbling since the announcement last week of one of the most audacious and unlikely transfer coups. Today it is expected to reach fever pitch as supporters cram into the club's new 30,000-seat ground when the player meets his fans.

To make Juninho, 22, feel at home there will be a 50-piece Brazilian samba band and a troupe of dancers

performing routines likely to become all the rage on Middlesbrough's usually less-than-exotic night scene. Local radio stations are featuring Latin American music and the samba, which Juninho is presumed to adore.

In an astute move, the club's marketing men scoured England to buy up replica Brazilian national team strips. "We sold more than 100 when they went on sale on Friday and we are already ordering more," David Allen, the club's spokesman, said.

The midfield player from São Paulo was accompanied by his father-chaperone. His mother and sister are due to come to Teesside soon. Stepping from the plane, the player paused to kiss a blonde air hostess and sign an autograph for her before sending a message to the fans: "I cannot wait to start playing. I'll do my best and hopefully help the team to win the Premiership."

Photograph, page 24

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Breathless Birdman flies headlong to freedom

ESPECIALLY in the House, it can make an enormous difference where you pause. Hecklers crouch ready to leap into the thinnest gap. Offer a chink of silence and giggles stand poised to giggle. Guffaws are lobbed like grenades onto so much as a handkerchief of unprotected space in a minister's text.

Take, for instance, the key passage in Michael Howard's statement yesterday on prison security.

Journalists knew the script before him (we had the advance text) but MPs who did not, could not anticipate his words. How he read them

was critical. The Home Secretary could have said:

"I have come to the conclusion, with some sadness ... and paused. Tories would have shot up in their seats. Was Howard about to resign? The Official Report this morning might have read: 'Hon Members gasp'.

Or he could have said "I have come to the conclusion, with some sadness, that this requires a change ..." and paused. "Of Government!" a dozen Labour members would have chorused. "Bye-bye," others would have cooed.

Or he could have said "I



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

have come to the conclusion, with some sadness, that this requires a change of leadership ... and paused. Dennis Skinner would have cut the air with "you're sacked, then" within a microsecond. The Official Report would have noted: "Hon Members ... of Home Secretary".

Or he could have said "I have come to the conclusion, with some sadness, that this requires a change of leader-

ship at the top ..." and paused. "Hooray!" "good riddance!" and "pack yer bags", the Opposition would have shouted.

But Michael Howard is a canny chap who, though he never commands the House, knows very well how to dodge it. So he took a deep breath and sprinted straight through the sentence, allowing so little space between words that not so much as the blade of an

assassin's knife could be inserted. "I have come to the conclusion, with some sadness, that this requires a change of leadership at the top of the Prison Service."

And he got away with it. Jack Straw, Labour's chief Home Affairs spokesman, is growing in command and hit back with a powerful response, while the Liberal Democrats' Alan Beith protested in his usual quiet, solid, rational way: but it was a thin House — the first day back after the summer — and there were only some 20 Opposition backbenchers to take up the cry.

Of all the escapes with which our Prison Service has been bedevilled in recent years, Michael Howard's series of break-outs has been the most daring. As this column goes to print, Birdman Howard is still at large.

Earlier, MPs had heard tributes to the late Lord Home. In a graceful speech, Sir Edward Heath had an affectionate story about the (then) Sir Alec's official engagements. The verbal formula used within Whitehall to explain his unavailability from two days before August 12 each year was, "for reasons which you will understand".

Later, Alan Howard (Bardic Ind, Stratford-on-Avon) entered, to uproar. Escorted by a phalanx of Labour heavies, the fair, slim-built Howard looked rather like Madonna entering Wembley Stadium with her minders. He chose to sit near John Prescott, presumably for security.

When Howard spoke during the defence debate, Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, welcomed him to the discussion of a service where qualities "like loyalty" were so vital.

There were sharp intakes of breath, for reasons which you will understand.

Board backed its director-general and told Howard he was making a grave mistake

Prison boss tried for two days to resist dismissal

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

AS Michael Howard savoured his triumph at the Tory party conference last week, he and his senior advisers were preparing to demand the resignation of Derek Lewis as director-general of the Prison Service. The Home Secretary had been studying the devastating report by Sir John Learmont into the escape from Parkhurst jail, the second indictment of the prison service in ten months.

Only months after agreeing to extend Mr Lewis's contract until April, Mr Howard called the director-general to his room at the Home Office in Queen Anne's Gate on Sunday at 11am for a tense meeting at which he requested his resignation. The meeting triggered an astonishing 25-hour battle as Mr Lewis fought to keep his job. He refused to go quietly and in a surprise move a majority of the service's senior managers saw the Home Secretary and told him he was making a mistake.

Mr Howard, who had not had a face to face discussion with Mr Lewis about the report, told the director-general that his position as head of the service was untenable. Mr Howard suggested that Mr

Lewis should depart amicably by the end of the year and that the Home Secretary would highlight the achievements of his three years in the job.

The Home Secretary said that Sir John's views and Mr Lewis's view of the service were not reconcilable but Mr Lewis said he agreed with many parts of the report. He also said Sir John had failed to give adequate recognition of plans to deal with problems.

The Home Secretary refused to change his mind and gave the director-general a deadline of 5pm on Sunday to agree to depart. Mr Lewis said the deadline was unreasonable and that he needed more time to consider his position.

Mr Lewis then received a letter saying that his contract would cease on January 1, 1996, instead of September 21. The letter extended the deadline for a response until 9am yesterday and made clear that if Mr Howard had not had a response he would reluctantly consider dismissing Mr Lewis.

Within hours eight of the 11 members of the Prison Board, the service's senior management, marched into Mr Howard's office in mid-afternoon

and told him that the move to get rid of Mr Lewis could destabilise the service.

Two non-executive directors, Geoffrey Keays and Sir Duncan Nicholl, were out of the country but were kept in touch by telephone and fully backed their colleagues.

Mr Lewis consulted his closest advisers throughout Sunday but did not meet the Home Secretary's deadline.

At 9.15am yesterday Mr Lewis met Mr Howard at the Home Office. The Home Secretary again told Mr Lewis his position was untenable and discussed a statement that could be released.

Mr Lewis refused to depart and was given a noon deadline to respond to the Home Secretary's demand or face being sacked. He never responded, leaving the Home Secretary no alternative but to dismiss him.

Mr Lewis had never been inside a jail before his appointment and admitted his knowledge of prison life was based on the BBC comedy programme *Porridge*. His appointment met immediate hostility because of his salary of £125,000 a year. His predecessor earned £63,000.



Michael Howard arriving at the House of Commons to deliver a statement on the Learmont report yesterday

Lewis told Howard: 'You gave me no time to discuss Learmont report'

THIS is part of the text of the letter from Derek Lewis to Michael Howard:

Dear Michael, [When we met to discuss the Learmont report and my response to it] You went on to say that you accepted the general thrust of the report but that the criticisms in it, in your view, made my position untenable.

You proposed that we should both agree, and that

you should report to the House today, that it would be in the best interests of the Prison Service for me to give up the Director-Generalship at the end of this calendar year.

You asked me to give you my response by 5pm yesterday, some six hours later. I said that I would do so as soon as possible, but that I did not think it was reasonable or feasible for me to meet your very tight deadline.

The deadline for response was extended to 9am today and it was further indicated that if you had not heard from me by then you would reluctantly be obliged to consider my dismissal as an option.

It is very unfortunate that you had provided opportunities prior to this morning on only two occasions totalling less than 45 minutes for us to

discuss the extensive material that I provided on the state of the Service and on the Learmont report.

I do not consider this adequate in order to reach a proper view on such an important decision.

My conclusions remain that there are no irreconcilable differences between my own views of the state of the Prison Service and the broad direction presented by General Sir John Learmont.

Any assessment of our performance over the last two years must also take into account the fact that the service achieved all of the objectives that you personally set for us last year and all but one of the objectives set by your predecessor in the first year.

None of that underestimates the extreme seriousness of the escapes from

Whitmore and Parkhurst, but there is a need for performance to be considered "in the round" and against the background of a 75 per cent reduction in escapes and a massive programme to improve security during my period in office.

Equally, there are explicit plans in place to deal with the other weaknesses that remain. It is significant that so many of the Learmont recommendations represent action that has already been taken, was already firmly planned or was proposed that he had been an employee. Counsel for the Bishop of Norwich argued that clergymen were self-employed.

I also find it surprising that you were briefed in considerable detail by Sir John Learmont on his conclusions at the end of March and in early April and yet decided later in April to extend my contract beyond the end of 1995 so as to form a 12-month rolling contract.

The Learmont report also rightly points to this very high level of Ministerial involvement in operational matters.

The report comments on "the personal pressures which the competing demands of the politicians, the media and successive operational incidents must have inflicted on (me)" and that "the Director General also needs minimum political involvement in the day-to-day operation of the Service".

It is a great disappointment to me that in the 13 months since the Whitmore escape, you have required so much paper but have paid so little attention to prisons, themselves with only some six visits — fewer than in the preceding 13 months.

Yours sincerely
Derek Lewis

Continuity needed

Continued from page 1
isterial support. It is a matter of great regret that you have not chosen to give it that support.

In the letter, released by the First Division Association which is representing him, Mr Lewis accused the Home Secretary of inventing a new definition of operational.

"You will recall that when we shared the platform for the Prison Service conference in November last year, you asked me to answer a particularly difficult question on the ground that it was operational. I said that you had invented a new definition of the word 'operational' which now meant 'difficult'. Sadly that has been proved to be even truer than I had expected." He

added: "Events over the past 12 months have highlighted the way in which the split between your responsibility for policy and mine for operations has become thoroughly confused."

Mr Lewis highlights the demands made on the service by ministers during the last four months which included producing 1,000 documents and 137 full submissions. He attacked Mr Howard for his failure to visit jails in the wake of the Whitmore escape. "It is a great disappointment to me that in the 13 months since the Whitmore escape, you have required so much paper but have paid so little attention to prisons themselves with only some six visits — fewer than in the preceding 13 months."

Queen is guest of honour at Thatcher birthday banquet

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Queen last night acknowledged the longest-serving Prime Minister of her reign by attending as guest of honour a dinner to mark the seventieth birthday of Baroness Thatcher at Claridge's Hotel in London.

Accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, the Queen headed a distinguished guest list at the private reception and banquet, apparently giving the lie to persistent rumours that, of all her nine first ministers, her relations with Margaret Thatcher had been the coolest. Lady Thatcher has already been heaped with honours in the sovereign's personal gift, including the Order of the Garter and the Order of Merit.

The Queen also made Denis Thatcher a hereditary baronet, an unusual honour as the distinction is more

usually given only for the life of the holder. The couple's son Mark stands to inherit his father's title.

Buckingham Palace sources said yesterday that the Queen had formed a strong personal relationship with her first minister during the 11 years of Mrs Thatcher's premiership. The monarch has been the dinner guest of Mrs Thatcher on several previous occasions.

Lady Thatcher, accompanied by Sir Denis, spent a weekend each year during her premiership as a guest of the Queen at Balmoral. The story of their strained relations stems largely from an incident early in Mrs Thatcher's premiership, when she arrived for her regular Tuesday evening audience with the Queen at Buckingham Palace to discover that she was

wearing the same dress as her sovereign. Frantic messages from Downing Street to the palace to ensure that such a social impropriety was never repeated elicited the lofty response that the Queen never noticed what her Prime Ministers were wearing.

Palace sources also went to some lengths to play down the suspicion, prevalent throughout much of the Thatcher era, that the Queen felt little sympathy for her Government's domestic policies.

Lady Thatcher's celebrations continue in Washington next Monday, where she is still a worshipped idol of American right-wing politics. Eight hundred guests, including Nancy Reagan, Helmut Kohl and Mikhail Gorbachev, are expected to greet her at the Union Station in the United States capital.

Schools face new quality testing

All state schools will have the quality of their teaching graded under a tough new inspection regime announced yesterday by the Office for Standards in Education.

From next April, inspectors will be expected to make their reports "jargon-free" and to detail the progress schools have made, rather than making allowances for the capability of their pupils. Teaching will be rated on a seven-point scale, from "very good" to "less than satisfactory" and inspectors will brief head teachers on staff they consider to be unsatisfactory in the classroom.

Arms inquiry

Customs and Excise is to investigate allegations that the Royal Ordnance systematically breached the arms embargo to Iran during the mid-1980s. Michael Heseltine was Defence Secretary at the time of several of the alleged illegal shipments. The Customs inquiry is at the instigation of Stephen Byers, Labour MP for Wallasey.

Boxing to stay

The Government dismissed calls for a ban on boxing yesterday after the death of James Murray, who never recovered from being knocked out in a bout on Friday. Iain Sproul, the Sports Minister, told the Commons: "We shouldn't let ourselves be overwhelmed by one tragedy."

Crash charge

The driver of the lorry involved in the crash that killed five British medical workers in southern Africa appeared in court, charged with culpable homicide. The unnamed man was remanded in custody by magistrates in Swaziland to appear on October 27. The five were killed instantly when their car was in a collision on Friday.

Vicar's job defeat

A vicar who was dismissed because he wanted to marry for a third time has lost a claim for unfair dismissal. An industrial tribunal in Norwich ruled that the Rev Kit Chalkcraft, 57, did not prove that he had been an employee. Counsel for the Bishop of Norwich argued that clergymen were self-employed.

Moderator dies

The Moderator of the Free Church of Scotland, the Rev Mardo Alex Macdonald, died suddenly yesterday, aged 60. He is understood to have suffered a heart attack at his son's home in Aberdeen while on his way to the General Synod of the Christian Reformed Church in the Netherlands. He leaves a wife and six children.

Driver rescued

Two passers-by pulled a woman to safety seconds before her car was hit by a train after plunging 25ft off a bridge. Sonia Fox, who was driving to work, lost control of her vehicle, which landed upside down on the line at Lye, West Midlands. She was taken to hospital but was released later, suffering from minor back injuries.

Footballer fined

A professional footballer was fined £250 after being convicted of injuring a girl by culpably and recklessly kicking a ball into the crowd. Steve Kirk, 32, a Falkirk defender, told Edinburgh Sheriff Court that he had mis-hit the ball during a Premier League match against Hearts. The girl, 12, needed hospital treatment.

Complete Beatles

Paul McCartney and George Harrison have completed the lyrics of a John Lennon song. Free as a Bird, McCartney admits in Newsweek magazine that there was "tension" between the two as Harrison was not keen on the track. They and Ringo Starr prepared for the task by pretending that Lennon was on holiday.

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البيان المالي

'He disliked criticism and disliked advice ... It was the same for me as for others'

Kevin Maxwell spent youth in fear of bullying father

By MICHAEL HORNSWELL

KEVIN MAXWELL told a jury yesterday of the fear in which he held his bullying father in childhood. Later, when he went to work for him, he discovered that he "put the fear of God" into others too.

Mr Maxwell, one of nine children born to the late publishing tycoon Robert Maxwell, said: "I was in awe of him as a child. I was very frightened. I was at boarding school at the age of seven. My experience of meeting him between the ages of seven and 15 was one or two days every few months, brief meetings during the holidays. He was a frightening character when I was growing up."

His dominating father disapproved of his marriage to Pandora, whom he had met in his final year at Oxford, and for a while he left the company business. But he was lured back by a father who could also be extremely charming and generous. He resumed his childhood ambition of working for the "charismatic" tycoon whose life, he said, was "driven by power".

Mr Maxwell, the youngest of four sons, was called to the witness box to answer charges of swindling Maxwell pensioners. Denying allegations of misusing pension funds, he said he had believed what his father had always told him: that the shares at the centre of the fraud charges had been properly transferred from the pension funds to the Robert Maxwell Group (RMG).

Mr Maxwell, 36, added that although the group had liquidity problems, he believed that its assets more than covered its liabilities. Even after his father's death at sea on November 5, 1991, he still believed that, with the support of the banks and the promise of an equity injection, the group was "saveable".

Before Mr Maxwell took the oath and began his evidence, which is expected to last at least two weeks, his counsel, Alan Jones, QC, said that the jury would hear evidence about how Robert Maxwell met his death.

Kevin Maxwell, who lives near Wallingford, Oxfordshire, with his wife and five children, denies conspiring with his father to defraud pension scheme trustees and beneficiaries of £4 million shares worth £100 million, in the Israel-owned Schieff Corporation to pay private Maxwell company debts.

With his brother, Ian, 39, and the former Maxwell financial adviser Larry Teachtenberg, 42, he also denies conspiracy to defraud by misusing £22 million shares in Teva Pharmaceutical Industries by pledging them as security for a loan in a vain bid to prop up the ailing Maxwell empire after his father's death.

Of the shares listed in the first charge, Kevin Maxwell said: "I believed they had been transferred to the ownership of RMG. I was told that by my father." The same applied to the Teva shares, he added.

The jury listened intently to Mr Maxwell's description of



Robert Maxwell disapproved of his youngest son's marriage to Pandora

his childhood and working life after the prosecution concluded its case on the 82nd day of the trial at the specially designed Old Bailey annexe in Chichester Rents, Chancery Lane.

He spoke of his father as a man who could switch from great charm to brutal bullying of both his family and company executives. The Czech-born scion of Jewish peasant farmers, who escaped to England in 1940 and went on to win the Military Cross and become a Labour MP, was a man driven by the desire for power, he said.

Possessed by hard work, he was a "spectacular risk-taker" who had turned around companies on the brink of bankruptcy and amassed a fortune of more than £1 billion by the late 1980s. "He had the management ability to take many decisions rapidly. He was somebody who inspired great loyalty and he was a real leader in that sense, a charismatic leader."

"He wasn't motivated by money. He was motivated by power, the ability to influence events, the ability to make a difference, to change things. He was an exceedingly generous individual, not simply in terms of donations to charity

but individual acts of generosity for people who worked for him or wrote to him, or members of the public. He was somebody who, if he could help, he would help."

But he was also capable of verbal brutality, and gave public dressing-downs not only to his children but to his senior managers. "He was capable of being a bully ... He was a big man, he had enormous charisma and a commanding presence. Given his weight and bulk, he could dominate — and did dominate — every meeting that he attended."

The domination was in part physical, part charismatic, and also he dominated by

virtue of his success. The more successful he got, the more people were willing to accept his judgment."

Mr Maxwell described how his father would hold daily meetings with senior managers at Mirror Group Newspapers. "If any of those managers had the misfortune to be reporting an event that displeased him, the guy would have a strip torn off him and the humiliation would be in public in front of his peers."

"It was possible to change his mind, but it would be very rare and it would be extremely and physically grueling to achieve. The arguments were frequent and he was as abusive to me as to others. He disliked criticism and disliked advice that did not follow what he wanted to do. It was the same for me as for the others."

Robert Maxwell even forced senior directors to open mail in the mail room at Pergamon Press and would harangue them if they dealt with it wrongly, Kevin said. "It was his way of imposing control and putting the fear of God into people."

Kevin was sent to the United States in 1983 to launch a military and defence publishing business. This ended when his father fired him "because he objected to my marriage to Pandora". He got another job but a year later accepted his father's invitation to rejoin the company. He said that, although there was friction over his father's attitude to Pandora, he did not want there to be a "perpetual breach".

He described the growth of his father's business empire from 1981, when he took over the ailing British Printing Corporation and Hollis, the timber company, through 1984, when he bought the Mirror group from Reed International, and to 1988, when he acquired the companies Macmillan and Official Airline Guides for more than £2 million.

Robert Maxwell's business practices continued unchanged until his death. "I would say that all my life I can categorically say that he put work first and it was the consuming passion of his life."

Asked about his father's health in 1991, Kevin said: "He was not as well as he had been. He had a chest infection for most of the year which he couldn't throw off. He still

worked incredibly long hours and was involved in substantial takeovers like the New York Daily News which required mammoth negotiations running through the night for weeks."

Mr Jones then asked Mr Maxwell about his father's attitude towards honesty and the law. He said his father "loathed" fraud in his own business and did not like people who took commissions which rightly should have gone to the company. He was "absolutely ferocious" if he discovered employees had been stealing from the business and personally investigated the circumstances. "In terms of his own personal honesty and integrity, I never doubted it during his life."

He went on to say his father viewed the law "as a weapon to be used in business, like any other weapon. He would stretch the law as far as it would go for his business ends." He believed his father was contemptuous of certain pieces of legislation, "but I would not describe him as someone who thought he was above the law."

In 1981, Robert Maxwell became a one-man committee of the board of RMG. His son said: "To my knowledge, that gave my father the power of the full board on his own and he could transact without limit other than the limit of the Articles of Association. That applied until his death."

Robert Maxwell would regularly transfer funds from cash-generating parts of his empire to cash-poor parts, classifying the transfers as loans to avoid tax, Kevin said. By 1990, a total of £683 million was owed by different parts of the company to each other. There had never been any suggestion from auditors that inter-company debts between RMG and Bishopsgate, which managed the pension funds, was inappropriate or unlawful, Kevin told the jury.

He continues giving his evidence today.



Kevin Maxwell arriving at court yesterday. His father "inspired great loyalty"



Royal alert over wife who would not stop for anyone

By KATE ALDERSON

A TEACHER'S wife triggered a royal security alert when she was delayed by a slow-moving convoy of traffic, a court was told yesterday. Rita Brown was late, angry and not prepared to wait.

Swearing loudly, she cut through on the hard shoulder until a policeman threw himself onto her bonnet. She was finally restrained and handcuffed in front of a crowd who had come to see an official visit by the convoy's passenger, Princess Alexandra.

Yesterday, after being fined £345 and banned from driving for 18 months, Mrs Brown said: "I suppose things didn't end up too badly, considering. They could have shot me."

Magistrates at Lancaster heard that she had not appreciated the reason for the unmarked cars and motorcycle outriders delaying traffic on the M6. Mrs Brown, 41, was driving to Lancaster University in July to register for a course. The university was also the destination of the Princess.

Carolyn Craigen, for the prosecution, said that as the convoy was leaving the M6, a police officer noticed a red Sierra in his rear view mirror. She said: "Suddenly, at speed,



Rita Brown: swore and gesticulated at police

it swerved across the lanes into the slip-road the royal convoy was about to use. It tried to overtake the convoy on the inside, using the slip road and the hard shoulder. The police became very concerned about security as the Sierra came dangerously close to the rear car."

Mrs Brown, of Marton, Blackpool, then took both hands off the wheel and gesticulated abusively at the motorcade. Police signalled for her to stop at a set of traffic lights on a slip road where

the royal party was waved through.

The court was told that she made a V-sign to officers, flashed her lights and drove within inches of a police motorbike as she attempted to overtake. An officer parked his bike in front of the car and flung himself across the bonnet.

Mrs Brown shouted at him: "Get out of my way, you bastard. You aren't stopping me. The law is an ass and so are you."

The officer grabbed her car keys. Mrs Brown retaliated by taking the keys from his motorbike and throwing them down the road. She was restrained and handcuffed.

Mrs Brown admitted dangerous driving, refusing to stop, using threatening and abusive language and driving without insurance. Trevor Colebourne, for Mrs Brown, said: "After thirteen years of unblemished motoring, this is a classic case of road rage. She was late and became trapped behind the convoy. She thought it was someone like the mayor."

"She did not know she was giving the police a potentially very serious problem. They did not know it was just an irate housewife. She wishes to apologise to the Princess."

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Grandson revives man stung by wasps

A BOY aged nine helped to save the life of his grandfather when he collapsed after being stung by wasps.

As Laurence Fannon, 64, lay unconscious by the River Tees near Barnard Castle, Co Durham, his grandson, also Laurence, gave him heart massage, which he had learnt in first-aid lessons at school in Penshaw, Tyne and Wear.

Mr Fannon, a retired builder of Herrington, near Sunderland, was stung repeatedly after disturbing a wasps' nest during a conker search on Saturday. His other grandchild, Terri-Anne, and her friend Haley Campbell, both 6, ran half a mile to a caravan site for help.

Mr Fannon was taken for treatment to Darlington Memorial Hospital, where doctors said that his condition could have deteriorated had it not been for the children's speedy response.

Back home after a night in hospital, he said yesterday: "They deserve praise for these life-saving actions and for having the common sense to go for help."



Laurence Fannon receiving a hug yesterday from his grandson and namesake

Rosemary West trial told of child assaults

I tried to burn down house to avenge rape, says Miss A

By RICHARD DUCE AND BILL FROST

A 15-YEAR-OLD girl tried to burn down the house of Rosemary and Frederick West after she was subjected to a degrading sexual attack by the couple at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, a jury was told yesterday.

Armed with petrol and matches, the witness, now 23, told how at the last minute she decided against the arson attempt on the house where six weeks before she had been raped by West after his wife had bound her wrists and ankles with sticky tape. Minutes before she was attacked she had witnessed the couple abuse another tearful teenage girl, Winchester Crown Court was told.

The woman, known only as Miss A, had come to trust Rosemary West as a "big sister-cum-mum" with whom she could share her troubles as a runaway from local authority care. After the attack in the summer of 1977, she felt hatred toward Mrs West who

she eventually saw as a "Jekyll and Hyde" figure capable in one moment of compassion and the next of aggression.

Miss A made several visits to the Wests' home after discovering that Mrs West provided a shoulder to cry on. Then one Friday morning she was led into a bedroom by Mrs West and there she found two naked young girls together with West wearing only a pair of shorts.

One girl, a blonde, could have been no more than 13 or 14, she said, while the other dark-haired girl was about 15 or 16. Mrs West then began to undress Miss A who said she was "dumbstruck". She told the jury: "I felt like I was in a fairground where you are stuck up against the wall."

Miss A, who was often in tears as she gave evidence, said the blonde was caressed by Mrs West as she lay on the bed and was then taped around the wrists and ankles before West had intercourse



Rosemary West once viewed as a friend

with her. Miss A said the blonde girl was very upset. "She looked distressed and frightened", Miss A said she could see "tears and pain" in the girl's eyes.

During the assault Mrs West spoke to the girl. "It was like Jekyll and Hyde — one minute she had an aggressive voice and the next minute it was all motherly again."

Miss A said the blonde went to sit against the wall with the dark-haired girl as Mrs West then led her to the bed. "I thought, 'God, I'm next. I wanted to scream, kick and cry.' Instead she did none of those things. 'I just felt numb', she said.

Miss A said she too was bound by the wrists and ankles by Mrs West who said "relax and enjoy" before she was assaulted with a vibrator and what she believed to be a candle. West then raped her. "I just kept thinking why?" said Miss A.

Afterwards Miss A asked to go to the bathroom. She told the jury: "I felt horrible, dirty, I just wanted to scrub away." She said she pulled on her dress and ran from the house. She told no one of her ordeal for 17 years until police began to uncover the bodies of nine young women and girls at

Cromwell Street. "I felt so ashamed and I just felt sick and I felt stupid."

Brian Leveson QC, for the prosecution, asked Miss A what she felt towards Mrs West after the attack. She replied: "Hate. I had trusted someone and they'd used me. I couldn't go to the police because there was a stigma for children in care. If you were in care you were bad. I couldn't go to my mum or my dad. There was nobody."

She returned to the house intending to pour petrol through the letterbox and set it alight. "All I had on my mind was revenge. I stood by the front gate. I just stood there. I wanted to do it so much."

The prosecution are seeking to establish that both West and Mrs West were obsessed with carrying out depraved sexual acts on young girls, some of whom they allegedly kidnapped. If they believed their victims would tell police, they were murdered and their dismembered bodies buried beneath the house. Mrs West, 41, denies ten charges of murder. Her husband was found dead in his prison cell on New Year's Day.

Miss A said that police traced her in 1994 after bodies began to be uncovered at the Wests' home. After telling detectives of her allegations she said she was now being paid £30,000 by a national newspaper for her story.

Miss A also told how as a child she had been sexually abused by both her father and her brother. Her second husband had been a violent man who "kicked her" and physically abused her in other ways, she added.

Miss A also told the court that she still believed on occasions that a man in black was following her and sat next to her on the lavatory while she was in the bath. Asked by Mr Leveson who this person was, she replied: "Mr West." The trial continues.

England bowler wins damages in patriotism case

By JOHN YOUNG

DEVON MALCOLM, England's fastest bowler, accepted "substantial" damages and an apology from *Wisden Cricket Monthly* yesterday.

The magazine published an article under the headline "Is it in the blood?" in its July issue this year. It suggested that England players of overseas origin, particularly West Indians and Asians, would lack real commitment to the England team and instead be motivated by a desire for personal advancement.

Malcolm's solicitor, Nayanesh Desai, said in a statement read in the High Court that his client had 32 England caps and had taken more than 100 Test wickets. The article, by an unnamed contributor, referred to Malcolm, who was born and brought up in the West Indies, in such a way as to question his patriotism and loyalty, and his suitability to be selected for England.

The allegations were entirely untrue and Malcolm considered them to be racist and highly offensive. He had always been a fully committed England player and supporter and took pride in playing for his country.

Mr Desai said that the Editor and publishers of the magazine had rapidly recognised the grave error they had made in allowing the article to be published. They apologised to Malcolm personally and withdrew any suggestion that he was not fully committed to England.

They had agreed to pay him substantial damages and his full legal costs. He intended to pay a share of his damages to the Derbyshire Children's Hospital and to the Devon Malcolm Cricket Centre for young people in Sheffield.

Rupert Elliott, for *Wisden Cricket Magazines Ltd* and



Malcolm: the magazine questioned his loyalty

the magazine's Editor, said his clients dissociated themselves entirely from the allegations and accepted they were untrue. The article had been published in the belief that it was a contribution to a legitimate debate, but they now accepted that it ought not to have been published.

After the statements had been read out Mr Justice Morland added his best wishes for England's tour of South Africa, for which the players leave tomorrow. "I hope Mr Malcolm can repeat his triumph at the Oval," he said, referring to the bowler's haul of 9-57 in the final Test match against South Africa last year.

Outside the court Malcolm said he was delighted that his commitment to England had been recognised. "I hope no one will ever again question the dedication and loyalty of sportsmen and women because of their place of birth or ethnic origin."

Phillip DeFreitas, another West Indian-born Test player, also issued a writ against the magazine. A spokeswoman for his solicitors said yesterday: "Our case will be continuing."

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THE TIMES TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1995

Arts chief and minister reject allegations that cultural elite is benefiting from London bias

Provinces promised more lottery funding for arts

BY DAVID ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE provinces will be given much more money from the National Lottery in the next round of grants, the chairman of the Arts Council of England promised yesterday as he de-
 ded two multimillion-pound awards to London projects.

The Earl of Gowrie spoke out after criticism of the latest grants, which included £30 million towards development of Sadler's Wells Theatre and £12.4 million for the project to rebuild Shakespeare's Globe theatre, both in the capital.

London has received nearly £125 million of the £179 million in grants awarded since March. The East Midlands has received only £3.42 million and northern England £2.43 million.

Lord Gowrie said that anxiety about the capital's large share of funding was "very fair", but in a small country it was inevitable that most of the major arts activities would be in the capital.

He said, however, that "the graph is shifting", and that bids to be processed over the next few months would see London's share dwindling. The £75 million Lowry Centre in Salford, for example, was likely to hear good news from his office soon.

One source on the northern arts scene said that the grants to London were to be encour-



aged because "they'll have difficulty turning us down in the next few rounds".

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, came under fire from both sides of the Commons yesterday over the arts grants. Terry Dicks, Tory MP for Hayes and Harlington, said: "This money is going to arty-farty types and it goes on corporate entertainment."

But Mrs Bottomley said: "As far as London is concerned, there are flagship institutions which affect tourism and our national pride. There is a misunderstanding that the lottery money goes to ballet dancers and bassoon players. It goes to bricks and electricity because the construction industry benefits from the money."

Tan Albery, chief executive

of Sadler's Wells, defended its £30 million grant towards a redevelopment scheme, which will provide a technically advanced venue for international companies.

He said that Sadler's Wells had been founded in Islington 63 years ago by Lilian Baylis as a theatre for the people — "with access and prices that artisans and labourers can afford". That philosophy re-

mained, Mr Albery said: the C-D-E social groups accounted for more than 50 per cent of the audience.

He said that many of the tickets cost only £5, and that Sadler's Wells audiences had the greatest ethnic mix and an average age of 24. "This is not a toffs' theatre. I don't remember a Rolls-Royce outside."

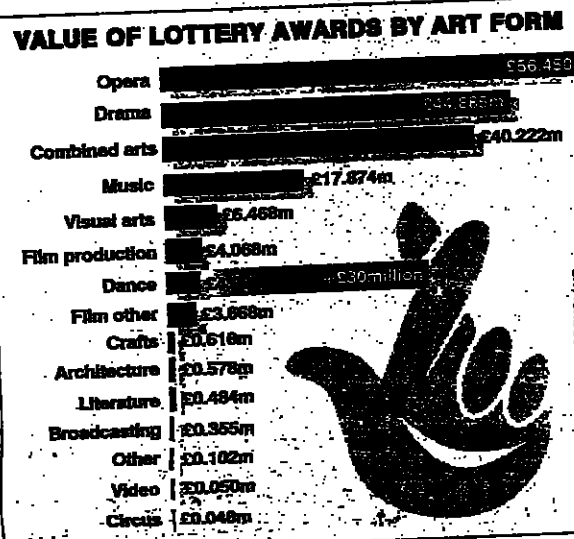
□ The National Maritime Museum is almost certain to receive up to £8 million of National Lottery money despite controversy over the Duke of Edinburgh's appeal to the Prime Minister.

Lord Rothschild, chairman of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, said yesterday that although the fund had initially expressed concern about aspects of the museum's application, a "solution" to the issue would be announced soon. It was disclosed yesterday that the Duke, a trustee of the museum since 1948, raised the matter with Mr Major at Balmoral in September.

Letters, page 17



A dancer rehearsing yesterday for *Swan Lake* at Sadler's Wells, which is to receive a £30 million lottery grant



□ Dame Pattie Merzies (obituary, August 31) was born on March 2, 1899, and spent her school years in Melbourne. Hattie Knight was her step-mother, and she is survived by her daughter, both her sons having predeceased her.

□ The Archbishop of Canterbury visited the Sudan as guest of the Episcopal Church (leading article, October 11).

□ Two policewomen jailed for

12 months at Liverpool (report, October 11) for supplying friends with drugs admitted only the supply of cannabis and amphetamine drugs, and not the supply of Ecstasy tablets, which would have attracted a heavier penalty.

□ Newham General Hospital

report, October 12) provides in-vitro fertilisation only, with an adjusted live birth rate of 14.3 per cent in 1993-94.

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Catalogue of inefficiency and incompetence allowed dangerous Parkhurst inmates to escape

Fugitives 'followed well-trodden path' through lax security

THE ESCAPE

THE Parkhurst breakout was one of the most embarrassing episodes in British penal history, (Stewart Tendler writes). Three dangerous prisoners escaped from the Isle of Wight prison using a copied key and a makeshift ladder assembled in a prison workshop, sparking a five-day manhunt. It was more than two hours before their absence was even noticed. The prisoners were last seen as they went into the prison gym.

At 6pm on Tuesday, January 3, 1995, a prison officer entered the main corridor of D Wing at Parkhurst prison where ten inmates were impatiently milling round by the exit, waiting to be escorted to the sports hall, the report said.

"The officer had no idea how many or which prisoners to expect; and so began the train of events which led to three of those inmates escaping from what should have been one of the highest security establishments in the prison estate, holding some of the country's most notorious, organised and dangerous criminals."

Keith Rose and Andrew Rodger, both 44, were serving life for murder. Matthew Williams, 25, was serving life for conspiracy to cause explosions. It emerged that they were able to copy a key after memorising its details when a governor used to "wave it in front of their noses".

Outside the gym, the duplicated key opened a gate into a large exercise area. The three moved to an inner perimeter fence and cut a hole through it. They should have been seen by closed-circuit cameras, but on the night of the escape the officers were inexperienced and largely untrained.

The final perimeter wall was scaled using the ladder made in a prison workshop. The area was covered by cameras, but again the escapees went unnoticed. Once outside, the three were well set



General Sir John Larmont, above, author of the report on the Parkhurst escape and prison security, had a reputation as a tough and robust soldier in his 40 years in the Army. He retired in June last year after his last appointment as Quartermaster General. General Larmont was commissioned in February 1954 into the Royal Regiment of Artillery and as a senior commander served for many years in Germany, where he was regarded as an outstanding officer. He rose to become Chief of Staff UK Land Forces. His command was noted for his energy and tenacity.

They had their own clothes, plenty of cash and a substantial headstart. The operation to recapture them involved 200 police officers searching the island. Rose was a qualified pilot, and the fugitives tried to start a Cessna at Sandown Airport, but it had no battery. Rose and Rodger were cornered as they walked along a road six miles from the prison five days after escaping. Williams was caught fleeing across fields.

"The escape from Parkhurst was not based on any new or ingenious plan, but simply on the ability of prisoners to follow a well-trodden path through loose and ineffective

security," the report said. "The alarm bells should have been constantly ringing throughout the Prison Service: some heard but did too little too late; others showed a reprehensible complacency and false sense of invulnerability. The Parkhurst escape revealed a chapter of errors at every level and a naivety that 'defies belief'."

Parkhurst should never have been retained as a high security prison with so much construction work in progress, it said. Procedures employed were lax and unprofessional. The service failed to provide the prison with the benefits of technology in relation to geophones on the fences, camera coverage and an up-to-date, properly-manned control room, despite persistent and legitimate requests from local management. "These deficiencies were bad enough, but mere pinpricks compared to the disastrous indecision and apathy which pervaded so many working practices."

"It is easy to condemn those on duty at the time, but the breakout could have been launched at any time with the same chances of success. There is little to commend in the way things were done despite the conscientiousness of many individuals."

"There must be something radically wrong with an organisation in which the governor has regularly to work in excess of 50 hours a week coping with blizzard of paper, leaving him only two to three hours a week to carry out the essential function of walking round the prison."

Two of the three escapees had demonstrated a number of times their ability to plan and carry out an escape, but both had been recommended for a security down-grading by one of the governors.

"The escape was not due to one person's folly. Many of its ingredients can be traced along the lines of communication to Prison Service headquarters. There were many 'hands on the tiller' on this voyage to disaster."



Patrols at the outer wall of Parkhurst after the escape: "Alarm bells should have been constantly ringing throughout the Prison Service"

'Recipe for total confusion and exasperation'

CONCLUSIONS

THE Larmont Inquiry recommends the creation of a maximum security prison for high-risk prisoners and a "special control" jail for disruptive inmates, particularly the mentally ill.

It said that Parkhurst should be downgraded from its role as a top-security prison. "The many shortcomings at Parkhurst poignantly illustrate how far short the service has fallen of reasonable public expectations in security matters."

"The status of Parkhurst as a high-security prison made this escape unacceptable. The fact that all the basic weaknesses of Whitmore, which had been so clearly identified by the Woodcock Inquiry, reappeared at Parkhurst with other failings makes the escape inexcusable. "Of the Prison



Parkhurst escapees: Andrew Rodger, left, Matthew Williams and Keith Rose

Service, the report said: "Any organisation which boasts one statement of purpose, one vision, five values, six goals, seven strategic priorities and eight key performance indicators without any clear correlation between them is producing a recipe for total confusion and exasperation among those undertaking

a most difficult and dangerous task on behalf of the public."

The inquiry said paperwork had reached epidemic proportions. "People and their actions are far more important than paper. The arguments for and against putting maximum security prisoners under one roof have been extensively aired. The escapes from

Whitmore and Parkhurst and the evidence of poor security indicate that it is time to re-examine the proposal. The inquiry has studied previous escapes and similar problems. The words 'if only they had implemented it' echoed constantly."

The inquiry hopes this report does not become yet another document to be regurgitated in the future."

The report, which suggested that every cell should have its own television, also recommended that new technology should be used to search prison visitors and that prison staff should be searched as they arrived for work.

It said private cash for prisoners should be phased out and telephone privileges should be an incentive, not a right. The report urged better security in workshops, better contingency plans for emergencies and tighter control on visits.

"It must be appreciated that unless security measures are in place which can be managed with confidence then any hope of progress towards humanitarian objectives is pious. We can ill-afford another episode which erodes the very foundation of a long-established and respected service."

Bad management left staff confused and demoralised

THE Director-General set out the achievement of the Prison Service at a conference at Solihull late in 1994 (Dominic Kennedy writes). Whitmore was a recent memory. He said: "There is no doubt this service is winning the war." The Larmont report says: "It is a sad irony that, within two months of his address, three more extremely dangerous prisoners escaped from a second high-security prison."

The report attributes some of the problems of the Prison Service to a sense of frustration among staff caused by the

number of organisational reviews and by the lack of medals or commendations for long service and good conduct. "Commendations can be produced on vellum, signed, framed and presented in public with a few well-chosen words, costing nothing but meaning an enormous amount and cementing a sense of pride."

The number of reviews of Prison Service headquarters led one senior manager to quote Gaius Petronius (AD66): "We trained very hard, but it seemed that every

THE PRISON SERVICE

time we were beginning to form into teams we would be reorganised. I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet any new situation by reorganising, and a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress, while producing confusion, inefficiency and demoralisation."

Prison officers below governor grade wear uniform and governors wear civilian suits. "The result is often a 'them' and 'us' culture," the report

says. "Ambitious prison officers aspire to wear a suit to work. Prisoners, who may also wear their own clothes, are encouraged to look down on the 'lesser mortals' in uniform. All staff in prisons, including governors, should normally wear uniforms."

It recommends that the Director-General "needs minimum political involvement in the day-to-day operation of the service ... The Director-General is required to deal

with a great number of ministerial queries, letters from MPs and parliamentary questions. The task occupies too much of his time."

"Ways and means must be found to overcome the problem ... The headquarters has developed an ethos which regards upwards communication not just as one of a number of important functions, but as its main raison d'être."

Three private prisons were visited by the inquiry. "The management obviously saw its role as to manage; and the

value of the frontline staff was recognised through higher pay for those who worked in daily contact with the inmates. The question is raised as to whether the problems at Whitmore and Parkhurst would ever have arisen if the Prison Service had the same monitoring and audit arrangements which are compulsory for the private sector."

It concluded that there were lessons to be learnt from private jails, but that the public sector was vital "for the stability of the service as a whole".

Ministers select sacrifices for self-preservation

By PETER RIDDLE

WE NOW know where the buck stops. The sacking of Derek Lewis by Michael Howard is important not only for the Prison Service but also for the constitutional implications. Yesterday's announcement goes, as Jack Straw argued, to the "heart of ministerial responsibility to the Commons". Since the British constitution is defined by precedent, a new doctrine has been established.

Ever since the executive agencies, such as the Prison Service, started to be set up in the late 1980s to run large areas of administration, there has been a debate about where accountability and responsibility lie.

Traditional notions of ministerial accountability to Parliament for the actions of the Civil Service have become blurred. No one seriously argues that ministers have to take the blame for everything done in their names. Nor have they. Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary and official interpreter of the constitution, has drawn the distinction between accountability, which cannot be delegated by ministers, and responsibility, which can.

Michael Howard argued yesterday that the problems at Parkhurst had not arisen from actions taken within the Home Office. Sir John Larmont, he said, had made it "perfectly clear" that criticism stops at the level of the Prisons Board. "Sir John has not found any policy decision of mine, directly or indirectly, caused the escape."

This distinction between policy and operations sounds neat but is unconvincing. Executive agencies were supposed to produce clearer and more open lines of responsibility, but it is impossible in practice to separate the policy decisions of ministers from the operational decisions of chief executives. Ministers cannot distance themselves from highly sensitive events such as prison break-outs, and they inevitably become involved in giving explanations. The Larmont report makes clear that ministers did

not leave Mr Lewis and his senior officials to get on with administering the prisons, but intervened all the time with new initiatives and requests. In that respect, responsibility as well as accountability was confused.

In a series of trenchant Commons questions Mr Straw, Shadow Home Secretary, argued that Mr Howard should be held directly responsible and should not treat an obviously battered Mr Lewis as a scapegoat. Mr Lewis's counter-attack last night weakens the defence of the Home Secretary, who is clearly going to follow recent practice and stay in office. Constitutional purists may tut-tut, but that is the reality. A weighty report last year from the Treasury and Civil

Service Committee of the Commons recommended that the delegation of responsibility to agencies should be accompanied by a delegation of accountability; agency chief executives should be accountable to Commons select committees for annual performance agreements negotiated with ministers. That should clarify where the buck stops. There are many obvious problems here, but at least Mr Lewis's successors will know what they are talking on, and what rewards they should therefore seek. They can be sure that their ministerial masters will ultimately be willing to sacrifice them in the overriding cause of political self-preservation.

Leading article, page 17

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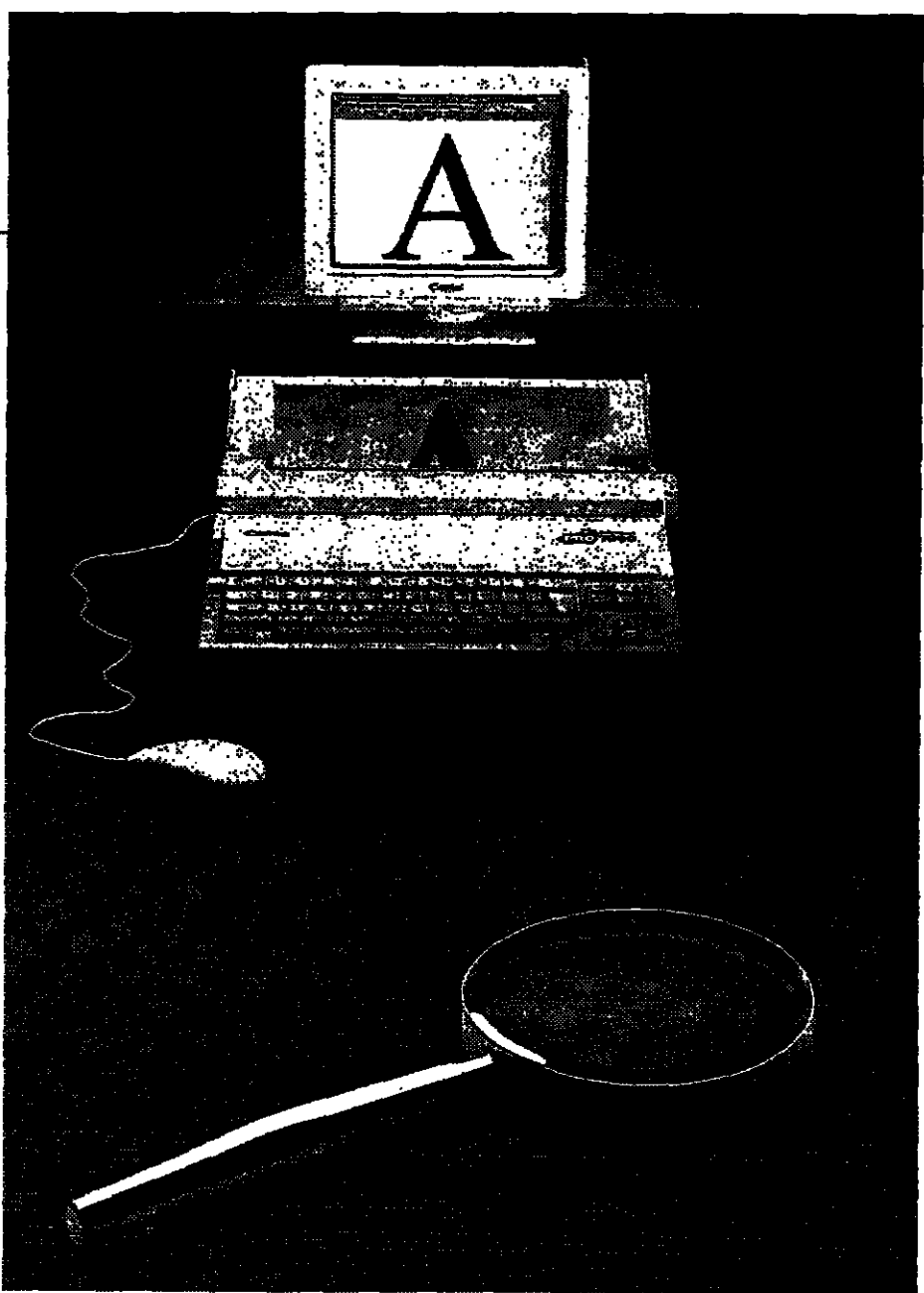
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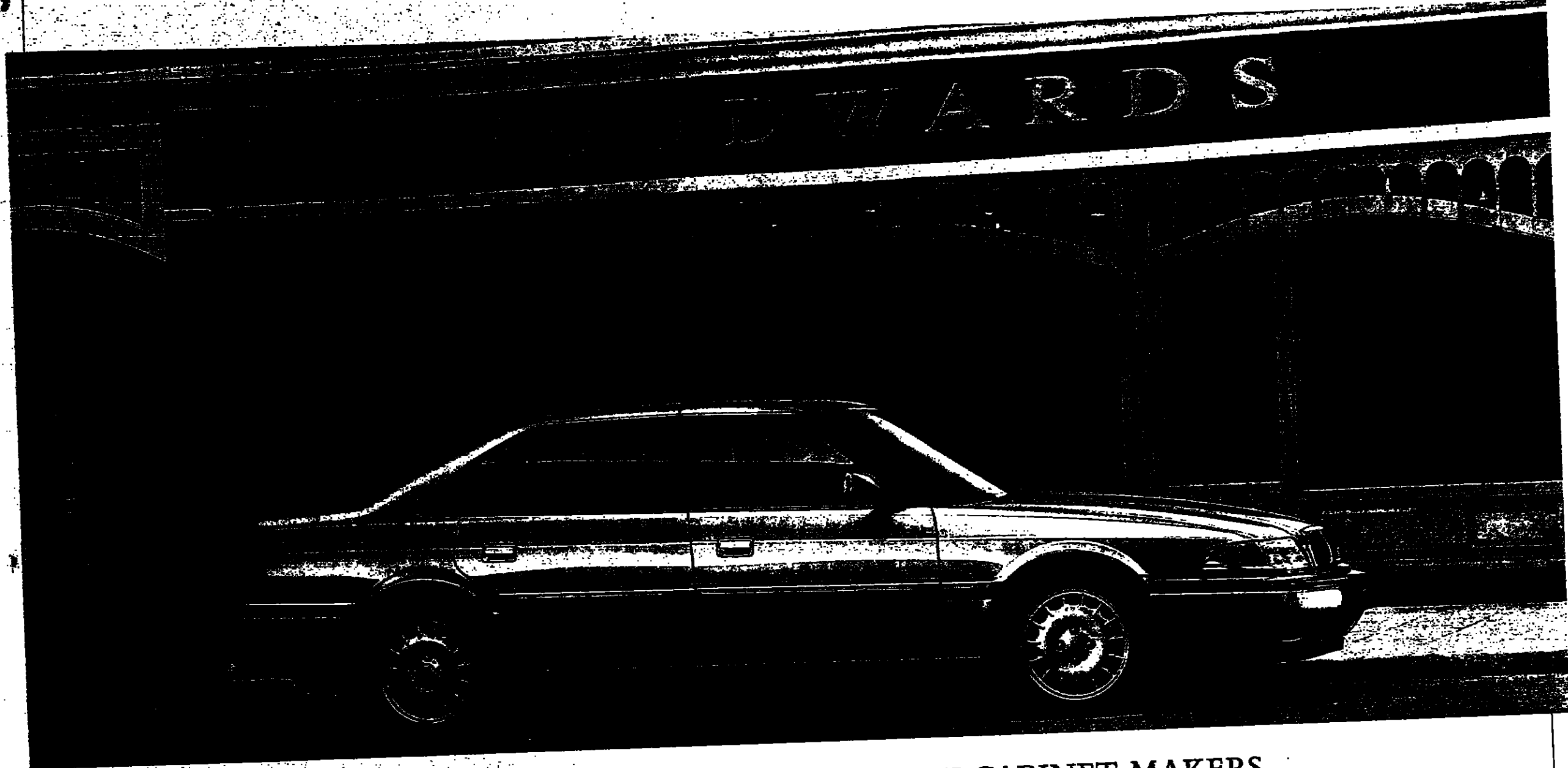
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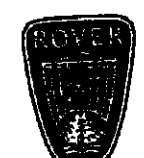
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New strike force will have 'power to shape events'

By MICHAEL EVANS AND JAMES LANDALE

BRITAIN will have a new joint rapid deployment force ready for action anywhere in the world from August next year, Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, announced in the Commons yesterday.

Brigadier Jonathan Thomson, who was once the commanding officer of the Royal Marines' Special Boat Service, has been appointed to set up the new force. He will draw together different units from the three services to form a composite force.

Mr Portillo, opening the defence debate, said the new force (JRDF) would comprise mainly the Royal Marines' 3 Commando Brigade and the Army's 5 Airborne Brigade, which includes a parachute regiment and a Gurkha battalion — a total of about 7,700 men. A chief of operations to command the force will be announced in due course.

Other units from each of the services will also be earmarked for the new force to suit the individual mission. This could include tank and artillery regiments, the RAF's Chinook and EH101 transport

helicopters, and the upgraded Hercules C130J aircraft.

Mr Portillo said: "The JRDF will provide us with an important tool in meeting the demands of a more volatile world. Our goal is to create a force with the power to influence events." The new force would be able to undertake "a broad spectrum of missions" either as part of a national response to a crisis or as part of an international coalition. "There would be a greater demand in future for operations mounted quickly."

The new force would bring together units from all three services into "an effective formation of up to reinforced brigade strength, with supporting naval and air components". The JRDF would also draw on specialist amphibious shipping. The Royal Navy's ageing assault ships, HMS Fearless and HMS Intrepid, are due to be replaced.

Mr Portillo said that the Government would look at chartering, leasing or buying civil shipping or cargo aircraft for deploying the force.

The debate gave Labour the

chance to attack Mr Portillo over his speech to the Tory party conference last week, accusing him of "disgraceful nationalism" and jingoism.

David Clark, the Shadow Defence Secretary, said Mr Portillo was guilty of "self-seeking Rambo-style propaganda" by trying to hijack the courage and commitment of the SAS. "In his speech the right Honourable Member delivered one of the most disgracefully nationalistic rants I have ever had the displeasure to hear."

John Major, who applauded the speech, must take some of the blame for the damage it had caused at home and abroad, Mr Clark said. "The excuse that it was knockabout conference floor oratory simply cannot obscure the menace and danger harboured in the Rt Hon Gentleman's tone. One only had to listen to his juvenile and jingoistic tirade last week to understand how misguided is his idea of the Armed Forces' role."

He said that Mr Portillo was motivated by the interests of his ambition. "He has

twisted and abused the values of patriotism held dear by Members on both sides of the House. It's an affront to this House to see the national flag being used recklessly to further the ambitions of one man."

He added: "It is not only this House and the Armed Forces which were outraged. It will have sickened millions of British people with its implication that to be a patriot, you must vote Tory."

Several MPs from both sides of the House pressed Mr Portillo to clarify whether the new strike force would require new resources but he refused to provide details. However, he said he did not intend the force to use troops already stationed in Germany as part of Nato's Rapid Reaction Corps.

He also announced orders for American Tomahawk land-attack missiles. Sixty-five Tomahawks are being bought for £180 million. He said the missile's long range and high accuracy would have a powerful deterrent effect on a potential aggressor.



Mr Heseltine facing the Labour benches and former colleague Alan Howarth, top right

Heseltine halted by Howarth's arrival

By NICHOLAS WOOD

NOT content with ambushing the Tory party conference last week, the defector Alan Howarth lay in wait for Michael Heseltine yesterday as he prepared to speak at the dispatch box for the first time as Deputy Prime Minister.

But Mr Heseltine had seen him coming. To the consternation of the Speaker and the fury of Labour's boogymen tendency, Roger Freeman was seconded to answer the first question on deregulation. At 3.19pm Mr Freeman sat down and Mr Heseltine took his place.

Cue Mr Howarth (Stratford-upon-Avon, new lab). In the best B-movie tradition, the big oak doors guarding the chamber flew open to reveal Mr Howarth, minders Peter Snape and Dennis Turner and a posse of Labour MPs.

Mr Heseltine, glancing fondly at the mace, settled for being momentarily upstaged as a smiling Mr Howarth headed for the Labour benches amid cheers and hoots of delight.

Blunkett set to benefit from Labour reshuffle

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DAVID BLUNKETT and Donald Dewar are likely to be the chief beneficiaries of a minor reshuffle after tomorrow's annual Shadow Cabinet elections.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, is widely expected to be given a new portfolio covering both education and employment to reflect the Government's merger of those departments, and Mr Dewar, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, is strongly tipped to become Labour's new Chief Whip.

Forty-two MPs were nominated yesterday for the 19-strong Shadow Cabinet this year, which will include at least one newcomer. One extra place has been added after Tony Blair's decision to choose the Chief Whip from the Shadow Cabinet rather than the post being filled through a separate election. New faces could include Brian Wilson, Clare Short, Alistair Darling and Nick Brown. Those most at risk of losing their place are Joan Lester, David Clark and Jack Cunningham.

Harriet Harman, the Shadow Employment Secretary, who will lose her job when her portfolio is combined with education, and Chris Smith, the Shadow Heritage Secretary, are both tipped for the social security post. They are both modernisers and would not balk at the controversial changes which Mr Blair wishes to push through as part of his reform of the welfare state.

Ms Harman, the front-runner, also has a key ally in Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, with whom she would have to work closely.

Mr Blair may choose to put Ms Harman at health to replace Margaret Beckett, who has not had an impressive year. However, insiders argue that he wants as few changes as possible and would be unlikely to demote the former deputy Labour leader to the shadow heritage post.

His biggest problem may be to find an extra portfolio for the newcomer. If Clare Short is elected Mr Blair may want her to keep her women's portfolio inside the Shadow Cabinet. Other options are to split the trade and industry portfolio or to keep a Shadow Cabinet employment post to underline Labour's commitment to help the jobless.



Harman may take social security post

MPs struggle to end earnings row

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CONTRIVERSY over MPs' outside earnings will come to a head this week as senior Tories block moves towards the full disclosure of such income.

Tories on the cross-party committee preparing new rules for MPs are resisting pressure to support proposals by the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life that any outside earnings related to parliamentary work should be disclosed in bands of £5,000.

The five Tory members are pressing for other options to be put to a Commons vote, including disclosure of earnings to the newly created Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards but not to the public. They are also preparing to agree to proposals that would allow MPs to offer advice to a lobby group, but not to advocate on its behalf, either through tabling Commons questions, speaking in the Commons or laying down

early-day motions. However, Labour MPs on the committee are adamant that this would have to be in addition to an earnings disclosure, not a substitute.

Three meetings are being held this week to resolve the dispute. The committee plans to publish recommendations by next week, followed by a Commons vote by the end of this month.

Disclosure of earnings was the main sticking point when the Commons committee published a report in July suggesting that most of the Nolan recommendations be implemented. After a Commons debate, Tory MPs rejected the Nolan proposals over declaration of earnings and demanded that the Commons committee draw up alternative plans. Some Tory backbenchers, however, have since voiced concern that more stringent rules will be necessary unless the Commons improves the image of MPs.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to the Arts and Heritage Ministers and the Deputy Prime Minister. The House paid tribute to Lord Home of the Hirsel before a debate on defence estimates opened by Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary. In the Lords: debate on the Criminal Injuries Compensation Bill.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY OCTOBER 17 1995

Vitamin discounts 'could undermine small pharmacies'

BY SARAH BAGNALL

THE supermarket chain Asda cut up to 20 per cent off the prices of vitamins, minerals and diet supplements yesterday in a move that threatens the manufacturers' 25-year price-fixing agreement.

The discounts on well-known brands such as Seven Seas, Sanatogen and Lucode are in defiance of a resale price maintenance (RPM) agreement on over-the-counter drugs, similar to the recently ended net book agreement operated by publishers.

Critics of the price cuts claimed that they could lead to the closure of small pharmacies. But Archie Norman, chief

executive of Asda, Britain's third-largest supermarket chain, has written to the Office of Fair Trading, urging a review of the RPM because he says it has created unacceptably high prices.

Asda has cut the price of Seven Seas evening primrose oil capsules from £5.99 to £4.79, 60 Seven Seas Multivitamins + Antioxidant from £2.55 to £2.04, and 30 Seven Seas Iron Berries from £3.19 to £2.55. The price of 30 Sanatogen multivitamins is down from £2.15 to £1.72, and Lucode energy tablets have been cut from 42p to 34p.

The RPM dates back to 1970

when the Restrictive Practices Court decided that the public would suffer without price-fixing because the range of medicines on offer would fall and many small independent pharmacies would be forced out of business.

Tim Astill, director of the National Pharmaceutical Association, said the argument was still valid. "It is short-sighted to risk losing a valuable local pharmacy service just to save 10p on a bottle of vitamins. The elderly, unwell and those without the luxury of a car will be most affected."

Independent pharmacies account for about 9,000 of Britain's 12,138 pharmacies. The largest retail chain is Boots, with 1,084 outlets.

The pharmaceutical market is split between prescriptions and over-the-counter business. Prescriptions are far less profitable than the latter, where branded products are controlled by the price-fixing agreement. Gross margins on prescriptions for retailers are about 15 per cent compared with 35 to 45 per cent on over-the-counter items.

Tony Shire, an analyst at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, said over-the-counter sales were subsidising prescriptions. "If you stopped RPM then small independent pharmacies would be pushed out of the market."

Consumers buy about £1 billion of over-the-counter drugs a year, including about £260 million of vitamins and supplements. The margins on such medicines are similar to other retail margins and less than those made by fashion retailers and jewellers. There is less risk, however, of traders being left with unsold medicines than fashion items.

The Office of Fair Trading is to consider whether to pass on the case to the Restrictive Practices Court, which would decide if price-fixing should be abandoned on over-the-counter medicines.

Keep taking the cut-price tablets

BY DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

THE fall in the price of vitamins is likely to please the general public more than doctors. The doctors may be wrong.

The traditional medical view is that extra vitamins are unnecessary if people who are otherwise healthy eat a wholesome diet, do not drink too much alcohol and are not pregnant. Alcohol inhibits the absorption of some vitamins and any liver damage can upset fat metabolism and normal intake of the fat-soluble vitamins.

The standard medical view, which has been challenged recently, is that the antioxidant vitamins — beta-carotene, vitamin C and vitamin E — have a cardio-protective function probably by helping to maintain a healthier lining to the arterial walls and one which is less receptive to the atherosclerotic plaques that can be precursors of heart attacks.

Although more anti-oxidant

vitamins can be obtained by increasing the amount of dark green and orange vegetables and citrus fruit eaten, it is not always easy to ensure that peppers, tomatoes, onions, garlic or carrots will be served in sufficient quantities.

Many people find it simpler to play safe and to take vitamin supplements as well. I would sooner forgo my daily dose of aspirin than a multivitamin tablet, with additional beta-carotene, vitamin E, vitamin C and garlic.

However, sceptical traditional doctors have been over the value of most vitamin supplements, all women intending to become pregnant should start taking another vitamin, folic acid supplement, some months before they want to conceive. Folic acid supplements minimise the chance of having a baby affected by many neurological deformities or by cleft palate.

Body and Mind, page 14



Driving to the island: the Skye Bridge. Motorists can now stay in their cars all the way from Rome, said Michael Forsyth

Skye bypasses the toll outcry for a day

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Skye Bridge was officially opened yesterday in a way that would calm many of its fiercest critics: the crossing was free for the day.

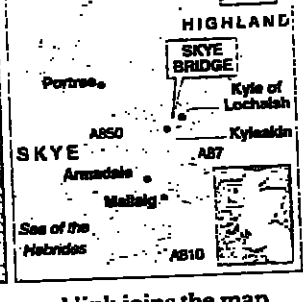
The tolls which start today are claimed to be the highest in Europe. The opening ceremony was boycotted by Kyle and Lochalsh District Council and the Highland MPs Charles Kennedy and Calum Macdonald.

About 200 local people watched 10-year-old Steven Campbell cut a ribbon to open the £25 million bridge. His mother, a teacher, was recently stuck on Skye when the ferry broke down and had to make the journey home by fishing boat.

Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, said it was now possible for motorists travel from Rome to Uig, in northwestern Skye, without



Arrivals and departures: the last ferry crosses as a new road link joins the map



leaving their cars. He added: "The remoteness of much of Scotland has always been a magnet to visitors. Waiting in a long ferry queue is not part of the attraction."

The Skye pipe band and a calcade of vintage cars marked the opening. The Scottish Office's declaration of a toll-free day defused threats of protesters storming across without paying the toll — £4.30 for cars in winter and

£5.20 in summer. The ferry crossing cost £5.40 all year.

The sole protester at the ceremony, Ian McKemmie from Fife, claimed that more than 30 people were planning to drive across without paying in the 24 hours after the bridge opened. The protest group Skat, Skye and Kyle Against Tolls, hopes to mount a legal challenge. Mr McKemmie said: "Article 14 of the Treaty of Union of 1707

says that Scotland and England will be taxed the same. This toll is a tax. It is additional to road tax."

The balanced cantilever bridge is the largest of its type in the world, with an overall length of 1½ miles. A ferry service over the water finished at 3pm by order. The five-minute Caledonian MacBrayne service had made the crossing in all but the most severe weather for

the past 23 years, but it was government-subsidised. Jeanette Tasker, who has a hamburger van on the pier at Kyle, took the ferry for the last time with her husband and two friends. "I will move my van to the other side," she said. "But the bridge will really hit the small businesses on the pier, the newsagents and the like."

Like most of Skye's 9,000 inhabitants, Mrs Tasker is in favour of the bridge but unhappy about the tolls. The bridge has been made possible because it has been financed entirely by private money — the first big project funded in this way in Scotland.

Sir Iain Noble, chairman of Skye Bridge Ltd and a prominent islander, said: "Now the bridge is here, let's make the most of it. We don't want the world to think of Skye as an island of grumblers."

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Damaged radioactive fuel rods in rusting hulk

Russia calls on British experts in nuclear alert

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

NUCLEAR experts from Britain and France arrived in Murmansk yesterday to see how one of the world's most dangerous dumps of waste nuclear fuel can be made safe.

Scientists from the Atomic Energy Authority (AEA) and French nuclear consultants will begin an inspection of a converted warship moored in Murmansk harbour that is being used to store damaged fuel rods from Russian nuclear icebreakers. The Russians had threatened to fill the old ship with concrete and sink it, but after lobbying by worried Scandinavians have agreed to look at alternatives.

The British consultants from AEA Technology will look at the expensive option of using robots to remove the rods and have them transported to Russia's nuclear reprocessing plant at Mayak, in central Siberia. They will also advise the Murmansk Shipping Company, which operates the seven nuclear icebreakers, how to dispose of liquid nuclear waste now stored in containers in the crowded harbour.

Western scientists estimate that the Kola peninsula, home of the Russian nuclear submarine fleet, is one of the most contaminated areas in the world, with many ageing and potentially unstable civilian and military nuclear reactors. Bellona, a Norwegian nuclear

President Ahtisaari of Finland begins a four-day state visit to Britain today, highlighting close relations with one of the newest European Union members. Tomorrow he will have talks with John Major, meet Opposition leaders, and give a lecture to the Royal Institute of International Affairs. *Leading article, page 17*

research group whose Murmansk offices were raided by Russian security forces last week, estimates that there are 317 active and disused nuclear reactors in the region; about two-thirds of all radioactive waste dumped in the world's oceans has been poured into the sea near by.

Officials of Russia's civilian icebreaker fleet are aware of the urgency of finding safe and permanent disposal sites for used fuel rods and nuclear

waste, but are overwhelmed by the enormous cost.

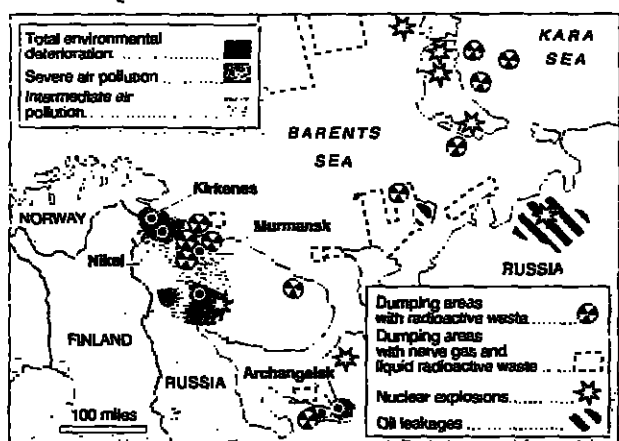
With unprecedented openness, prompted by promises of Western financial aid, especially from Norway, they have invited Western scientists to advise them how to cope with the specific problem of an ageing storage ship, the *Lepse*. This is seen as a test case that might prompt Russia's secretive military to invite Western help in disposing of more than 100 ageing nuclear reactors on

the bankrupt submarine fleet, now mostly laid up in port.

Previous cavalier attitudes to nuclear safety have caused considerable unease in Murmansk and in the whole Arctic region. The *Lenin*, the first nuclear icebreaker launched 30 years ago, is now a rusty hulk awaiting a decision on its future. It suffered two serious nuclear accidents, and in 1967 the entire reactor and contaminated cooling circuit were simply cut out of the hull and dumped at sea. The fuel rods have been removed from the replacement reactor, but the ship is still considered too contaminated for further use.

There were so many big and small nuclear incidents on the ships, mostly Finnish-built, that fuel rods expanded and did not fit the protective cladding: the Russians are said to have tried forcing them in with sledge-hammers, causing many to shatter, with radioactive fragments lying around in the *Lepse*.

The Mayak reprocessing plant refused to accept the damaged rods and in 1983 the Russians decided to cover the ship's hull with concrete. Work was completed ten years later, but above the storage section radiation is still high. In all, the ship contains 621 fuel assemblies; unless they are reprocessed, the ship will remain radioactive for another 300,000 years.



Wang Fengchao, the deputy director of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, displaying in Peking yesterday one of the dark blue passports that will be issued from July 1, 1997, to Chinese qualifying as permanent residents of the Hong Kong Special

Administrative Region. China hopes for co-operation from Britain in promoting recognition of the passport, which has told a news conference. "We hope the British Government will give visa-free entry. This would help to increase the confidence of other countries in the

passport." A British diplomat said no decision had been taken pending eligibility for the passport, which has as its background the baubinia, the colony's official flower. Present British Hong Kong passport holders can enter Britain without a visa. (Reuters)

Ciller backed to revive coalition

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

TANSU CILLER, the Turkish Prime Minister, has won support to form a coalition government, a day after she lost a vote of confidence in parliament and called for an early general election.

Her political salvation came

in the unlikely form of Deniz Baykal, the man responsible for her downfall in the first place. Mr Baykal, elected leader of the Republican People's Party last month, pulled out of the ruling coalition, which collapsed on September 20. The two leaders had fallen out over Mr Baykal's demand for the dismissal of Necdet Cengiz, Istanbul's police chief, who had accused the Republican party's Minister of Human Rights of "encouraging terrorism".

Yesterday, Mr Cengiz cleared the way for the resurrection of the coalition by resigning. Mrs Ciller and Mr Baykal said after a meeting that their Right-Left coalition could be resurrected. Mrs Ciller later met President Demirel, but it was unclear whether he gave his approval. President Demirel had cancelled a state visit to the United States, after Mrs Ciller lost the vote on Sunday by 230 ballots to 191 to form a minority administration.

For the past month, she has stumbled from one possible coalition partner to another. At one stage, it appeared that she might even lose control of her True Path Party if sufficient numbers of MPs were to defect to the main opposition Motherland Party. About 13 True Path MPs either abstained or voted against Mrs Ciller in Sunday's vote.

Yesterday, most commentators had assumed that Mr Demirel would have to appoint a caretaker government to lead Turkey into an early election, possibly as early as December 24. The news led to a fall in share prices on the Istanbul stock market, but it staged a remarkable surge

after it was heard that the coalition might be revived. "There aren't many markets in the world where the market goes up 8.5 points the day after the Government loses a vote of confidence," Mehmet Sami, head of a securities firm, said.

The return of Mr Baykal's social-democratic party into the Cabinet will rescue Mrs Ciller from the nationalist Right both in True Path and among the minority parties to which she had looked for support. This, in turn, will make it easier for the European Parliament, which has been seeking Turkish democratic reforms, to ratify a customs union pact with Ankara by the end of the year.

However, a revived coalition, it appears, would be only a stop-gap measure to take Turkey to an election earlier than scheduled next October.

Angry leader insists she is no cheat

FROM NICHOLAS GEORGE IN STOCKHOLM



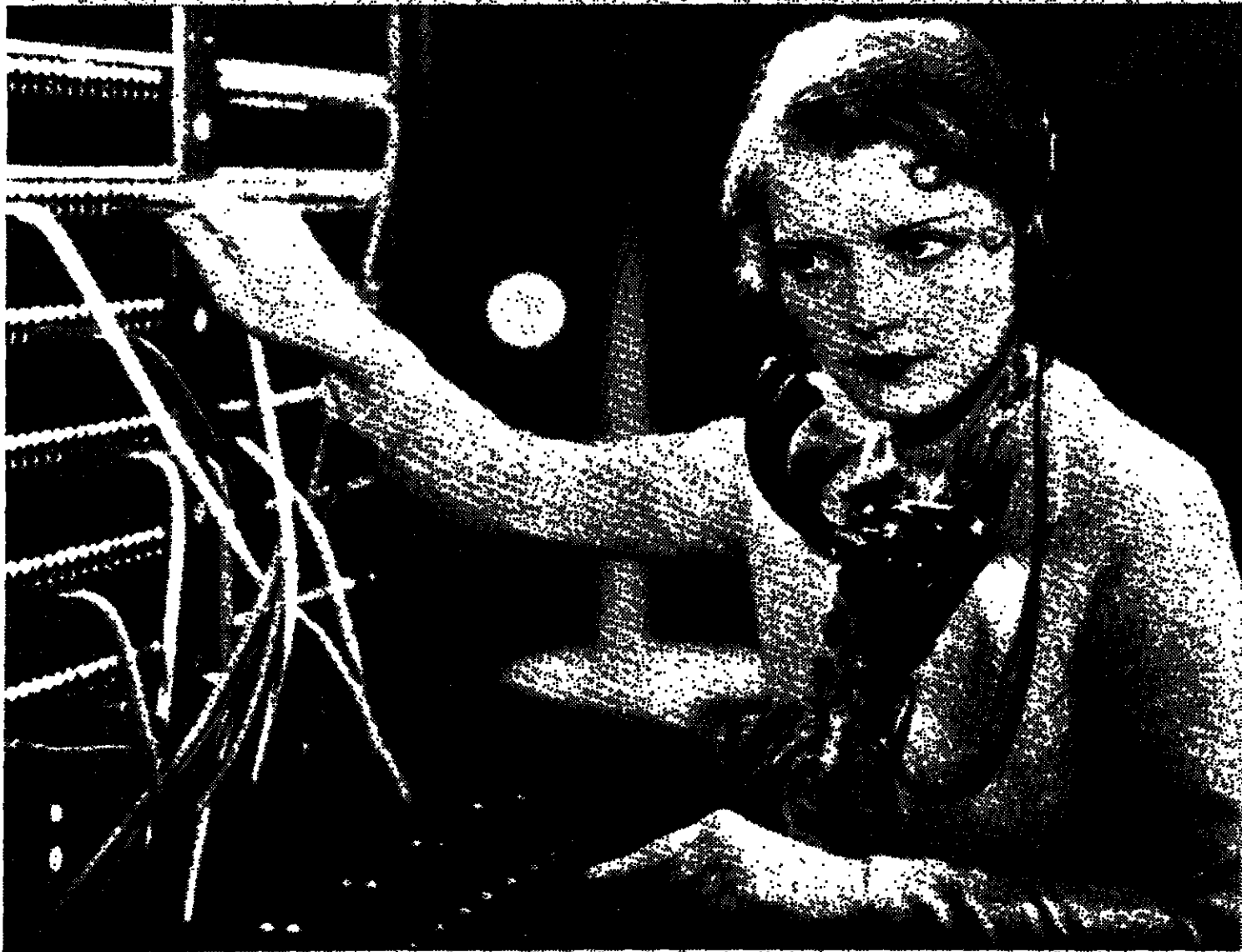
Sahlin: admits being sloppy with finances

IN AN emotional press conference yesterday, Mona Sahlin, the Swedish Deputy Prime Minister, accused of using an official government credit card for private purchases, admitted she had been sloppy with her finances but insisted she was not a cheat.

Mrs Sahlin, 38, main candidate to succeed Ingvar Carlsson as Prime Minister when he steps down in March, almost broke down in tears as she attacked the press for intruding into her private life and hounding her children and a former boyfriend.

Newspapers have been investigating Mrs Sahlin's private finances, revealing a series of late-paid bills and credit card problems, with debt collectors having to chase up hundreds of pounds worth of her family's parking fines.

She said rules on official credit cards were unclear and she welcomed an investigation into the affair by the chief prosecutor. Her candidacy for the leadership of the Social Democratic Party is on hold while prosecutors decide whether she has committed a criminal offence.



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مكتبة الامير

Mood of celebration drowns Farrakhan message of racial hatred and division

Mass black rally asserts commitment to renewal

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER AND TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

FROM across America hundreds of thousands of black men poured into Washington yesterday to pledge a new commitment to families and communities devastated by decades of poverty, crime and hopelessness.

Long before dawn, they began filling the Mall where Martin Luther King spoke of his dream of a united America 32 years ago. They came by plane, train and car, from as far afield as Los Angeles, Miami and Chicago. By noon on a beautiful autumn day, the great sea of humanity stretched east from the Capitol, passed the Washington Monument a mile away, and looked to have easily exceeded the 250,000 who joined King's march on Washington.

The turnout was a triumph for Louis Farrakhan, the Nation of Islam leader, who dreamed up the Million Man March, and his busy followers in their red bow ties were much in evidence, but the controversies he has generated with messages of racial hatred and division were drowned by the marchers' overwhelming mood of celebration and renewal.

Even the leading blacks who boycotted the rally because of Mr Farrakhan's involvement acknowledged the raw power of its message. General Colin Powell, who could conceivably be sworn in as America's first black president, said he was staying away lest he lend Mr Farrakhan credibility but believed that the march would "begin to uplift black men and uplift black America".

Mr Clinton acknowledged the legitimacy of black grievances about police brutality, an unjust system of justice and glaring economic disparity. He specifically cited the police beating of Rodney King that sparked the 1992 Los Angeles riots, and the taped racist slurs of Mark Fuhrman, the Los Angeles policeman, during the O.J. Simpson trial. But he also said blacks had to understand that for white people violence too often has a black face.

He admitted that the Simpson verdict had polarised the nation, but hoped that the march would start healing the "racial divisions tearing at the heart of America" by showing whites that most blacks pursue the same traditional American values they do, often in far harder circumstances. He urged all Americans to reach out, talk

and listen to people of other races. "White racism may be black people's burden, but it's white people's problem," he declared. The marchers came to dispel the stereotype of black men as violent crooks and drug dealers, and succeeded.

Teachers from Baltimore mixed with reformed gang members from Chicago. Unemployed youths from South

glossy facade of the Capitol, the most prominent symbol of white control in America. "I'm an old man now and my time is past, but this is for every African-American that ever lived. We have to show them up there that this cannot go on. We reserve the right to choose our own leaders. The time has come to set the people free," he said. "This is all about having a dream which never became a reality."

The day was punctuated by gospel music, chanting, dancing, rap and a succession of speakers ending with Mr Farrakhan.

Independence and Constitution Avenues, the capital's arterial roads, were closed to traffic, while Nation of Islam followers, their suits immaculate and blatant red armbands unpleasantly reminiscent of a very different time, sold their message.

Los Angeles Stacey Koon, the former Los Angeles police sergeant, will serve out the remainder of his 30-month jail sentence for the videotaped beating of Rodney King in a halfway house. (AP)

'Martin Luther King would never have called for an all-black march. I am not going to attend because it goes against tolerance, inclusion and integration.'

John Lewis, Georgia congressman

Central Los Angeles clasped hands with officials from the Treasury. "We are here," chanted the crowd. For the few white people at its centre, the sense of power was overwhelming. Gazing above the heads of those around him, Bill Williams, 60, from Detroit, pointed suddenly at the



West Coast members of the militant Nation of Islam organisation assemble yesterday on the Mall, in the heart of Washington, for the mass demonstration by black men

Second class from cradle to grave

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

FOR a young black male the odds are stacked heavily against him from birth, with a black infant mortality rate of 8.5 per 1,000 births compared to 6.9 per cent for whites.

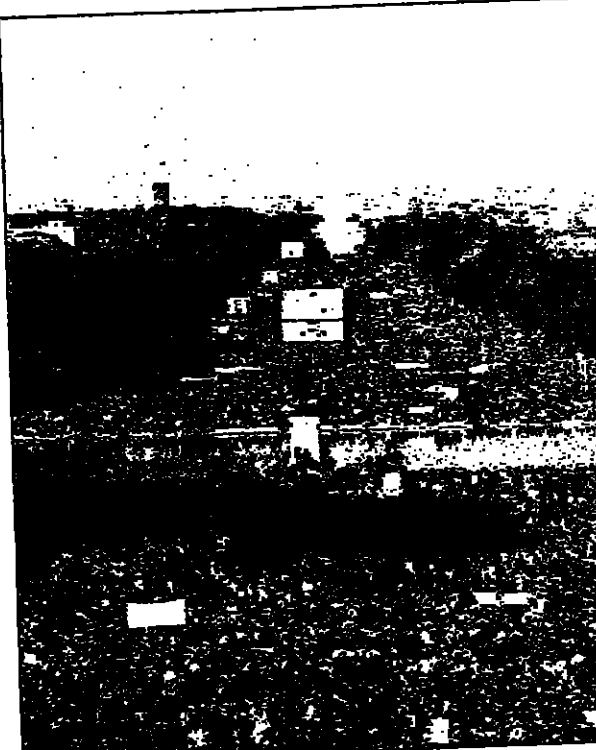
Chances are high his will be a single-parent family. In 1993 an estimated 3.7 million black homes — nearly half — lacked a father and 68 per cent of new black mothers were unmarried. He is also likely to be born into poverty: a third of blacks live below the poverty line (12.2 per cent of whites).

For him, the American Dream is unlikely to become a reality. Only 12 per cent of blacks obtain university degrees (compared to 23 per cent for whites). More are serving time than studying, with a third of black males in their twenties in prison, on parole

or on probation. Black men are eight times more likely to be murdered than white men. Aids is rampant in black America and the leading cause of death among males aged 15 to 24.

If he survives the perils of the street, he stands less chance of getting a job — the black unemployment rate is 13 per cent (6.2 per cent for whites). If he does find work, he will probably earn less — in 1992 the median income of a white American family was \$32,960, while that of a black family was \$19,533. And he will be viewed with fear and suspicion by many whites during his life.

White Americans keep their advantage to the grave, enjoying a life expectancy of 76.5 years. For blacks it is 69.6.



The crowd, which formed before dawn, exceeded the 250,000 who marched with Martin Luther King

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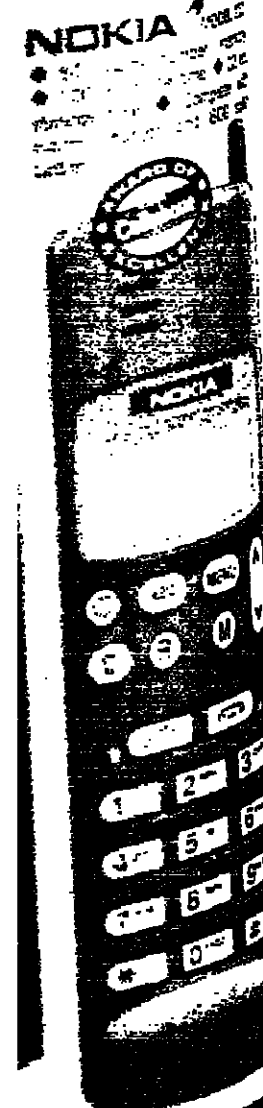
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Juppé coalition hit by clash over secret Swiss bank account

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French Government faced yet another scandal yesterday after accusations that Jean Arthuis, the Finance Minister, had long been aware of an allegedly illegal Swiss bank account belonging to his Social and Democratic Centre party.

An official of the centrist CDS party, which forms part of the ruling coalition, told investigators he had informed M. Arthuis of the secret account several years ago, according to a report in *Le Monde* newspaper. M. Arthuis, the vice-president of the CDS, who replaced the free marketeer Alain Madelin as Finance Minister in August, has vigorously denied having any knowledge of the account.

Earlier this year François Froment-Meurice, deputy secretary-general of the CDS, told the satirical newspaper *Le Canard Enchaîné* that the party had kept between four million francs (£533,000) and eight million francs in a secret

Swiss bank account during the 1980s. In June, a formal judicial investigation was launched into whether laws governing the funding of political parties had been broken.

M. Froment-Meurice has since informed an investigating judge that he told M. Arthuis the name and telephone number of the Geneva banker in charge of the party's Swiss account. "I do not know M. Froment-Meurice's Swiss banker, and I am deeply

Mushrooms poison alert

Paris: Scientists are warning French fungus-gatherers to beware poisonous mushrooms that have claimed two lives recently (Ben Macintyre writes). This year's bumper crop has brought an increase in *Amanita phalloides*, the death cap mushroom, whose toxin can be fatal.

shocked to learn that my name has been cited in a procedure of which I am ignorant," M. Arthuis told *Le Monde*.

The allegations are certain to tarnish further the Government of Alain Juppé, who narrowly escaped prosecution last week for allocating himself a large flat at below market rates while Deputy Mayor of Paris.

M. Madelin added to M. Juppé's problems yesterday by saying that France would fail to meet the conditions for a single European currency without "radical reform" and drastic cuts in the deficit and public spending.

Sir Leon Brittan, the Vice-President of the European Commission, struck a more optimistic note on a visit to Paris. He had "no doubt about the capacity of the French economy to fulfil the criteria for monetary union", adding: "There will be a single currency in 1999, and France will be a founder member."



Helmut Kohl holds a toy lion, presented to him at the Christian Democratic Union conference in Karlsruhe yesterday, while discussing strategy for the 21st century

Kohl shifts party to Europhile left

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL yesterday rallied his Christian Democrats with a passionate appeal for strictly enforced European Monetary Union and argued that only deeper integration could banish war from the continent. The contrast with the Conservatives' conference in Blackpool could not have been more vivid; the German Chancellor lobbied hard for the European cause, and shifted his party unmistakably to the Centre-Left.

There were no dissenting voices in the conference debate about Europe, only shades of difference about how strict the entry criteria should be for European monetary union. The economic advisory council of the Christian Democratic Union had insisted that two of the convergence criteria — the trimming of deficits to 3 per cent of gross domestic product, and the cutting of total debt to a maximum of 60 per cent of GDP — should be written into the constitution. Only this would reassure Germans sufficiently about the loss of their mark.

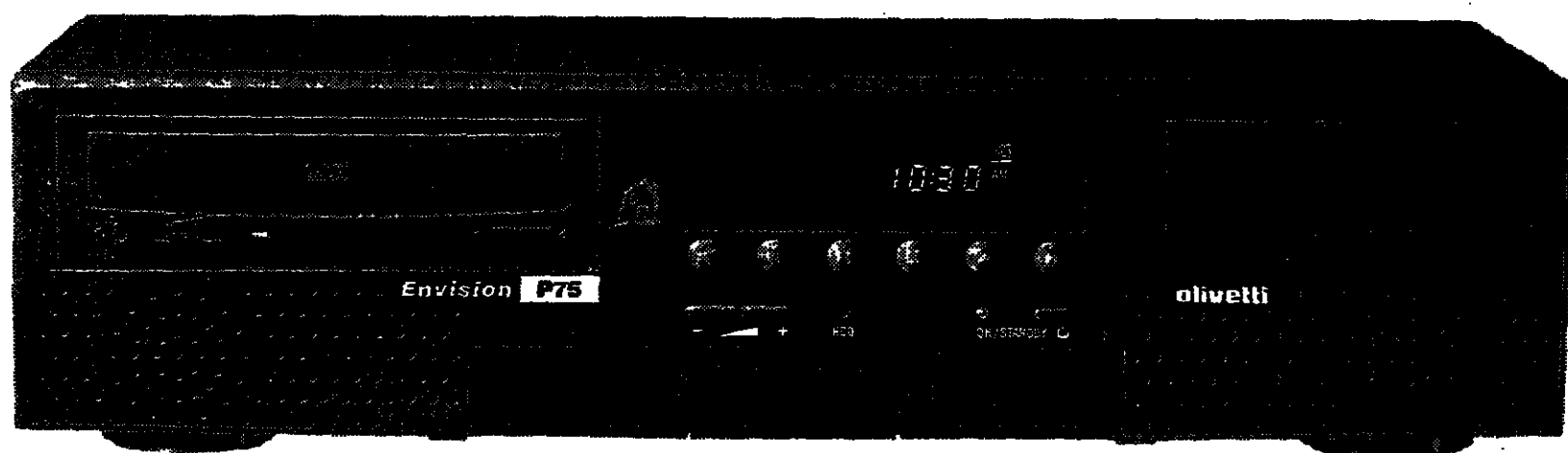
The theme was taken up by the Chancellor and echoed later by Theo Waigel, the

Finance Minister, who, like Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, was a guest at the congress. Her Waigel is chairman of the Bavarian Christian Social Union, which has become a powerful lobby for strict entry and post-entry conditions on future members of the single currency club. Some Christian Democrats suspect that their Bavarian sister party is trying to raise its hurdles to such a level as to make a single currency impossible.

It was Herr Kohl who set the tone yesterday, not least because his future and that of his party, is so clearly bound up with the European project. Europe, he said, had to have a stable currency. "Anything else would put into question the great successes we have achieved in integrating Europe. It could all be worse; the citizen's mistrust could very quickly turn against the idea of Europe itself."

The three-day congress is supposed to discuss problems awaiting Germany in the 21st century and make much of the need to create jobs. But the party's main problem is how to replace Herr Kohl.

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Russians discuss role in Bosnian peace

BY RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

REPRESENTATIVES of the five-nation Contact Group on Bosnia gathered in Moscow yesterday to speed up the peace process and clarify Russia's role in a future military peacekeeping operation.

As a shaky four-day ceasefire begins to take hold in Bosnia, and with only two weeks to go before peace talks open between the warring factions in the former Yugoslav republic, the Kremlin wants to resolve outstanding details of a peace deal.

Among the subjects expected to be covered at the two-day meeting are the make up of delegations to the talks, scheduled to begin on October 31 in America, and Bosnia's future constitution and territorial division.

Aleksandr Zorov, President Yeltsin's special envoy on Bosnia, said the Russian side hoped to make a "practical start" to peace moves after months of division and failed Contact Group initiatives.

Last night Bosnian Serb leaders were locked in a power struggle as the breakaway region's parliament, angry at battlefield losses, demanded the dismissal of generals loyal to the army commander General Ratko Mladic.

A marathon session in Banja Luka ended early yesterday with the resignation of the figurehead Prime Minister, Dusan Kozic, as a political scapegoat for defeats in north-west Bosnia. The more significant demand by deputies of the ruling Serb Democratic Party for the four generals' dismissal appeared to signal the revival of a power struggle between General Mladic and Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader.

UN officials in Sarajevo said fighting appeared to have stabilised in the northwest, and were confident the ceasefire was holding along most of the front line.

London and Bonn fail to agree on combat jet

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN and Germany failed yesterday to resolve their longstanding dispute over the future work-share arrangements for building the controversial £32 billion Eurofighter combat aircraft.

The impasse between the two principal partners in the four-nation European programme is causing renewed concern that the multibillion-pound project, which is already delayed by two years, may face further postponement.

While Defence Ministry sources in London were hoping that the planned date for bringing the combat aircraft into service, 2002, would still be achievable, at present there seems to be no solution to the disagreement between the two countries.

Officials from the four partner countries — Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain — met yesterday to negotiate on Bonn's insistence that it should have 33 per cent of the work when the production phase begins. Britain is continuing to argue that Germany's share should be reduced because of the decision by the Bonn Government to cut its requirement for Eurofighters from 29 to 140.

Germany has had 33 per cent of the development work. Britain is the only country of the four involved in the programme which is keeping to its original requirement of 250 aircraft for the RAF. Italy has dropped its requirement from 165 to 140, and Spain from 100 to 87.

London has told Bonn that it has no right to demand a third of the production work when it has reduced the number of Eurofighters for the German Air Force by such a large amount. German officials argued yesterday that since her country had invested the same amount of money in the project as Britain, it had a right to keep its share of the future production work.

Graf loses \$1m Opel contract

BY ROGER BOYES

STEFFI GRAF, the tennis player, yesterday lost a \$1 million (£650,000) sponsorship contract with the Opel car company in the most direct assault on her finances since she became embroiled in a murky, and politically charged tax evasion scandal.

The German star, who wears the Opel brand name on the sleeves of her tennis shirt, is being sucked inexorably into the centre of the tax affair. Peter Graf, her father and former financial manager, has been in a remand prison for two months; her accountant has been arrested; and other accounts in the Netherlands are being investigated to determine how far sponsorship money has been diverted to non-German banks.



Graf hit by tax scandal: Steffi Graf, the tennis player, yesterday lost a \$1 million (£650,000) sponsorship contract with the Opel car company in the most direct assault on her finances since she became embroiled in a murky, and politically charged tax evasion scandal.

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ARTS 33-35

When flattery got royal portraitists everywhere

LAW 37-39

An inspector calls on the magistrates

SPORT 43-48

Eubank quits while ahead of the game

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY OCTOBER 17 1995

Directors go in shake-up at British Gas

By ERIC REGULY

BRITISH GAS unveiled a boardroom shakeup yesterday that the City viewed as "house cleaning" before the company enters an era of greater competition in all its businesses.

The surprise announcement came as Cedric Brown, chief executive, confirmed he would not take part in the company's new, long-term incentive plan, which could have paid him more than £2 million.

British Gas said three of its seven executive directors will leave. Russell Herbert, 50, who joined in 1966 and had been an executive director for less than three years, will leave immediately "to pursue other interests".

Mr Herbert had been responsible for the global business unit, including activities in North and South America, and power generation. British Gas said his final pay package would not be revealed until next spring, when the annual report is published. His salary and other benefits came to £178,000 in 1994 and he holds

about 207,000 share options with exercise prices ranging from 190p to 327p. British Gas shares closed at 243p, off 9p.

Mr Herbert is replaced by Stephen Brandon, recently recruited from General Electric in the US, where he was an executive director. Norman Blacker, 57, and Howard Dalton, 51, are the two other executive directors on the way out. They will be leaving "in due course" and successors have not been appointed.

Mr Blacker, who joined in 1969 and had been on the board since 1989, was responsible for European activities

is a career British Gas man. Simon Flowers, an analyst with NatWest Markets, said: "This is tantamount to a boardroom shakeup. They're clearly under pressure in all parts of their business and they'll need the benefit of quality people in the very competitive world they're entering."

British Gas, for example, faces radical change next year when it loses its monopoly on domestic gas supply. It is also under pressure to develop its overseas businesses, which have been a disappointment.

The company said Mr Brown's decision to forgo the long-term incentive plan did not mean he was about to leave the company. Fear of additional publicity in the wake of the "fat cat" pay scandals appears to have been his motivation. He said: "I believe too much attention has been paid to my remuneration over the past 11 months and sincerely hope that we can now get on with the many complex and difficult challenges that face the company."

The new incentive plan, reviewed by institutional shareholders, is much tougher than the draft version proposed earlier this year. It gives free shares to executive directors and other senior managers if shareholder return meets certain targets.

Pennington 27

and other businesses including public gas supply. Mr Dalton, a former Amoco executive who had been a British Gas director since early 1992, had the Middle East, North Africa, the former Soviet Union and exploration and production in his portfolio.

British Gas denied it was clearing the decks to improve its lacklustre performance. A spokeswoman said: "This is an ongoing and orderly process of change. But the City thought, otherwise. Analysts noted none of the four remaining executive directors, with the exception of Cedric Brown,



A different view as Hurd starts new job

Foreign exchange: Douglas Hurd, the former Foreign Secretary, at his new office yesterday. He is deputy chairman of NatWest Markets, and is to be paid £250,000 a year for two days a week work (Patricia Tehan writes).

Mr Hurd signed his contract yesterday, although he officially started on October 5. His salary includes an estimated £20,000 for the post of non-executive director of NatWest Group. He will also sit on the bank's International Advisory Board. His contract, based on a standard NatWest Markets contract, describes

his role as: "Acting as a senior adviser to NatWest Markets on worldwide political and economic issues and providing such other services of a promotional or ambassadorial nature." Mr Hurd's pay also includes the time he will put in preparing for and attending between eight and ten NatWest Markets board

meetings and 11 NatWest Group board meetings, one of which is a two-day board. NatWest must give Mr Hurd 12 months' notice before terminating his contract and he must give six months' notice if he decides to leave. He is not entitled to participate in the NatWest executive share option scheme or any

equity incentive plan in the group. It is not a pensionable salary and he has no entitlement to participate in any other NatWest benefit plan. Mr Hurd will have access to one of the pool cars, but no company car.

When the bank announced his appointment last month he was accused by Labour of joining with "indecent haste". As recommended by the Nolan Committee on standards in public life, he is waiting for three months from leaving a Cabinet post to taking up his appointment. He will remain an MP until the next election.

Baring Futures fined

By ROBERT MILLER

THE failed company at the heart of the £860 million collapse of Barings has been fined £2.8 million by the Singaporean authorities.

Simex, the Singapore International Monetary Exchange, yesterday announced that it had found Baring Futures (Singapore), the company that employed Nick Leeson, the trader blamed for the crash, guilty of violating its rules at a hearing held in June.

The fine, which will be paid out of surplus funds deposited by the company with Simex, comes before today's publication of the long-awaited official Singaporean inspectors' report into the Barings failure.

Baring Futures is in judicial administration and was not bought by ING, the Dutch bank which subsequently rescued Barings and a number of its subsidiary companies. It is understood that a new company, JNG Futures and Options will begin trading soon.

The rule breaches that led to yesterday's fine included accepting orders from a customer without causing them to be executed on the proper exchange. Simex said that the company also breached a futures trader's duties by causing false records to be entered and reported in relation to the prices for the positions of two accounts.

MGN and Crédit Suisse settle over £80m of pensions money

MIRROR Group Newspapers (MGN) has reached an out-of-court settlement with Crédit Suisse over the alleged misuse of up to £80 million in MGN pensioners' money. Proceedings were initiated a year ago as part of a package of litigation involving the Maxwell pension funds. The size of the settlement was not disclosed.

Philip Sheridan, chairman of MGN Pension Trustees, hailed the settlement as "a major step forward", which

had the full support of the trustees. It had been feared that the action could drag on until the summer of 1996, with the prospect of appeals further delaying a result for up to another three years. Mr Sheridan would not comment on the amounts involved, but said the injection went a long way to boosting the solvency of the MGN schemes.

Under the settlement, Crédit Suisse is required to return shares to MGN, which it

claims were pledged to it in good faith. Crédit Suisse says it has made no admission over liability. The bank said: "MGN Pension Trustees, Crédit Suisse and Bank of America have agreed terms to settle the main action and the contribution proceedings. The settlement is on terms that Bank of America and Crédit Suisse make no admission as to liability."

Maxwell trial, page 3

Classic Bloodstock spent £800,000 to raise £3.2m

SHAREHOLDERS in Classic Bloodstock, the racing investment group that raised £3.2 million from 6,500 investors, have expressed concern that £800,000 of their money was spent in marketing the company (Robert Miller writes).

Classic Bloodstock, which has been fined £1,000 by Companies House for late filing, states in its first report and accounts to the year ending December 31, 1994, that expenses in promoting and marketing the scheme came to

£534,066, with £258,468 for postage and stationery.

With the money raised from investors, the company bought 24 racehorses for £1.3 million. At least two of these "went wrong" and one died. Between them the Classic Bloodstock horses have won £11,608 in prize money so far this year, according to a special survey by *Sporting Life*. More than half of the horses are as yet unraced.

According to the overdue accounts, the company had

£830,075 in the bank at the end of last year. Net loss for the accounting period amounted to £992,720. The company also noted an overdraft of £1,840.

William Ryan, a shareholder said: "The company seems to have wasted an enormous amount of money promoting itself. I received four copies of the glossy brochure. I hope to attend the annual meeting when I shall make clear my disillusionment at the way in which Classic Bloodstock is being run."

Inquiry 'set out to break Saunders'

INVESTIGATORS probing the Guinness Affair kept the police out of the picture for as long as possible in a determined effort to "break" Ernest Saunders and his co-defendants, the Court of Appeal heard yesterday. Government-appointed inspectors with sweeping powers were permitted to interrogate suspects long after grounds for a criminal inquiry had been established.

Opening the Guinness Appeal in London, yesterday, Jonathan Caplan, QC, for Mr Saunders, said investigators were determined to mount a prosecution over share dealing irregularities arising from the £2.7 billion Distillers takeover in 1986. He said: "This was a case where there was an agenda, and the agenda was [for] inquiry followed by prosecution."

Court report, page 26

Making acquisitions could become an Abbey habit

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT



Lord Shuttlesworth, left, chairman of N&P, with Lord Tugendhat

ABBEY NATIONAL will consider future acquisitions once its £1.35 billion takeover of National & Provincial Building Society is complete next summer.

Lord Tugendhat, chairman of Abbey National, said yesterday that while the bank had "no plans at this moment" for further acquisitions, "with the industry in the present period of great change and turmoil, we will certainly be keeping our eyes and ears open". He said the bank would be ready to take action on whatever opportunity might arise.

He added that the bank had been "reading about the implications" of Lloyds Bank's £12.6 billion proposed takeover of TSB, and about the changing status of some building societies and life insurers.

Abbey and N&P set out details of the plans to distribute the £1.35 billion from Abbey to 1.34 million N&P members yesterday.

N&P said its 349,000 qualifying borrowers will receive £500 of Abbey National shares, as will qualifying savers of less than two years before December 31 this year. They must have had at least £100 in a share account between April 28 and December 31 this year and must still be savers when the deal is completed next summer.

The 799,000 savers with savings in their accounts between December 31, 1993 and December 31 this year will receive £750 in cash and 5 per cent of their savings — up to a balance of £50,000 — on a qualifying date. The extra payment will be

a percentage of the lowest balance in the account on two dates, April 28 when it stopped opening new share accounts, and next summer when the deal completes.

N&P is threatening to penalise two-year savers who withdraw funds from their accounts before the deal completes, saying it reserves the right to change the date at which it will assess payments to them. The move is an attempt to prevent an outflow of funds into speculative investments in other societies. Savers will, however, qualify if they transfer funds to other N&P investments.

At least three quarters of N&P savers have less than £10,000 in their accounts and most have less than £5,000. This means the extra payment for a large number of two-

year savers will be of the order of £250, making a total of £1,000. They can opt to receive their payments in Abbey National shares.

The N&P scheme is the first one to allow the estate of a sole account holder to receive the £500 entitlement if the account holder dies. It will also allow the second-named on a joint account to receive the full two-year saver benefits if the first-named dies.

Alastair Lyons, chief executive of N&P, said the scheme had been organised to reflect the commitment of members and, by setting a maximum balance of £50,000, to avoid making excessively high payments to a minority. Only 2 per cent of savers, 20,000 people, have £50,000 or more in their accounts.

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First day of the Guinness Appeal

Inquiry 'aimed to break Saunders'

By JON ASHWORTH AND MELVYN MARCUS

INVESTIGATORS probing the Guinness Affair kept the police out of the picture for as long as possible in a determined effort to "break" Ernest Saunders and his co-defendants, the Court of Appeal heard yesterday. Government-appointed inspectors with sweeping powers were permitted to interrogate suspects long after grounds for a criminal inquiry had been established.

Opening the Guinness Appeal in London yesterday, Jonathan Caplan, QC, for Mr Saunders, said investigators were determined to mount a prosecution over share dealing irregularities arising from the £2.7 billion Distillers takeover in 1986. He said: "This was a case where there was an agenda, and the agenda was [for] inquisition followed by prosecution." It had been decided to "keep the police out of the picture" to allow the inspectors to use the wider inquisitorial powers at their disposal.

Mr Caplan said: "In pursuing the course that they did, the interests of Mr Saunders and the other applicants were seriously affected." By early March 1987, the solicitor to the Department of Trade was writing that "the inspectors are now much more optimistic about breaking Mr Saunders completely". Everybody agreed with the "wisdom" of allowing the inspectors to continue their questioning for as long as possible, down to Michael Howard, former DTI minister, who requested regular updates as the case developed.

The subsequent failure to disclose the findings of a licensed tribunal into share dealing involving TWH, a licensed dealer, amounted to a "material irregularity", the court heard. That material would have had an important bearing on whether share indemnities were improper.

Mr Saunders, Gerald Ronson, the property tycoon, and Anthony Parnes, a former stockbroker, served various terms in prison in connection with the Guinness share support operation. Sir Jack Lyons, a financier and philanthropist, was spared prison on the grounds of ill-health. Instead, he was fined £3 million and was stripped of his knighthood. All four are appealing against their convictions.

Mr Saunders and Mr Parnes were in court yesterday, together with Lord Spens, formerly of Henry Ansbacher, the merchant bank, and Roger Seelig, the former Morgan Grenfell corporate financier, who were defendants in the aborted Guinness II trial. George Staple, Director of the Serious Fraud Office, listened as the appeal got underway. Lord Taylor of Gossforth, the Lord Chief Justice, sitting with Mr Justice Macpherson, and Mr Justice Potter, heard that more than 2,000 pages of documents had been obtained since last December concerning events in the early months of 1987, soon after inspectors were appointed to investigate alleged irregularities surrounding the Distillers takeover.



Anthony Parnes, left, Lord Spens, top, and George Staples, were all at the Court of Appeal in London yesterday

The court heard that from early 1987, the DPP and his counsel, assisted by the DTI, had identified the four appellants as suspects, and had "targeted them for prosecution". Police, who should have been called in as early as

February 1987, were not appointed until May. Transcripts of the interviews played a crucial part in the prosecution. Had Mr Justice Henry, the trial judge, been aware of the delay, he might have stopped the trial on

grounds of an abuse of process, or have ruled that the transcripts were inadmissible, the court heard.

The court heard of a meeting between the inspectors, DTI officials, and others, on 30 January 1987, when prelim-

inary views about the inquiry were expressed. Mr Caplan said: "We suggest that a meeting of that kind should never have taken place." Mr Howard was later briefed on developments. The hearing continues today.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Franc loses ground after interest-rate cut

THE franc suffered renewed weakness in afternoon trading after the French central bank yesterday cut its 24-hour emergency lending rate by a quarter of a point to 7 per cent. Although the move, which came sooner than the foreign exchange market had expected, brought little immediate pressure, fresh political worries helped to push the franc to 3.4922 to the mark from its opening level of 3.4787.

Guyon Hache, Europe economist at James Capel, said the central bank had taken a "first step to normalising French interest rates". But he added that it still had a good way to go. The central bank's rate cut was seen as a signal that the authorities want to start lowering rates as soon as possible. The Bundesbank council meeting on Thursday is not expected to cut key German lending rates, but its "repo" rates could be shaved once again. Some Paris analysts believe the French central bank could cut interest rates again today if the franc holds up well enough. Alain Madelin, the former Finance Minister, said he did not blame speculators for the franc's recent problems, as markets provided "good discipline". A debate in the national assembly today on the 1996 budget is likely to focus the currency market again on France's large public deficit, set at Fr322 billion.

BT drops Belgian bid

BRITISH Telecom and Bell Atlantic, a regional phone company in the US, have dropped plans to launch a joint bid for a stake in Belgacom, Belgium's national telecoms company. Their decision came after the Belgian Government decided to sell a minimum of 50 per cent of Belgacom instead of 25 per cent. BT and Bell Atlantic feared that owning half the company would effectively make them operators instead of investors. BT said it simply wanted to use Belgacom to market its international services to large Belgian corporations.

House prices stable

MORE than half of the chartered surveyor estate agents taking part in the quarterly survey by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, published today, reported stable house prices over the past three months. Some 6 per cent reported rises, while 29 per cent still saw prices falling. The RICS said that September's cut in loan rates had helped the market in the last quarter and reported strong regional variations. A spokesman added that sales were still low and that "all eyes are now looking to the Chancellor's November Budget".

PPP rules out talks

PPP, Britain's second largest private medical insurer, yesterday denied market rumours that it was negotiating to buy the hospital division of Compass Group, the contract caterer. PPP, which does not own any hospitals at present, does have seven nursing homes with some 300 beds under the PPP Beaumont Care banner. A PPP spokesman said: "There are no negotiations going on with us and Compass." Compass, estimated to be the fourth-largest provider of acute healthcare in Britain, declined to comment.

Winckler to head SIB

ANDREW WINCKLER will become the new chief executive of the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the City watchdog, when John Young, the current incumbent, retires at the end of this year. Mr Young will remain as a non-executive director of the SIB. Mr Winckler, 46, is currently head of supervision at the SIB and a member of its board. A career regulator, he was from 1991-93 deputy chairman of the Securities and Futures Authority and before that deputy chairman of The Securities Association.

Mercury-Siemens deal

MERCURY, the telecom arm of Cable & Wireless, is to sell its telecommunications distribution subsidiary, which employs 900 people, to Siemens, the German engineering group, for almost £60 million. The acquisition will reinforce the position of Siemens in the UK market. The distribution subsidiary retails telephones and private automatic exchanges. Its turnover is around £100 million. The disposal is one of the last elements in the restructuring of Mercury, which started last December. C&W getting through, page 29

IoD foresees downturn

BRITAIN'S economy looks set for a downturn rather than a pause in its recovery, the leader of the Institute of Directors said yesterday. The warning from the free-market IoD is the furthest business has yet gone in suggesting that gloomier economic indicators amount to a downturn. However, the IoD last night said too much should not be read into the statement attributed to Tim Melville-Ross, its director-general, arguing that the case that the current pause looked like moving into a downturn was not yet fully clear.

Hornby chief to quit

A BOARDROOM split at Hornby Group, the toy maker best known for its Hornby model railways and Scalextric racing cars, has resulted in a decision by Keith Ness, chief executive, to stand down as a director from Friday. The company gave no immediate reasons for the surprise Stock Exchange announcement, but said it is actively seeking a successor. Analysts close to the company put the decision by Mr Ness to leave down to an apparent difference of opinion with other board members as to the group's future strategy.

Cookson appointment

DENNIS MILLARD, currently finance director of Medeva, the pharmaceuticals group, is to take a similar post at Industrial Cookson Group, the industrial materials group. Mr Millard succeeds Ian Barr, who reaches retirement age in March. Medeva said the recruitment of his replacement was getting under way and there was expected to be a handover period before his departure at the end of February. Mr Barr will leave Cookson after its annual meeting is held in May.

GEC looks beyond Weinstock

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE board of GEC meets today when it is widely expected that directors will discuss the appointment of a new managing director with George Simpson, chief executive of Lucas Industries, heavily tipped as the likely successor.

The appointment of a successor to Lord Weinstock has dragged on for several years, with shareholders growing increasingly uneasy. It is also thought that the future of Richard Reynolds, chairman of GEC's telecoms joint venture with Siemens, may be in the balance after his reported criticism of the selection process.

The appointment of Mr Simpson, who transferred from Rover, would be well received, but it would also be difficult to execute as he has been in his present position for just 18 months. Lucas is likely to demand a hefty premium to release him.

Neither GEC nor Lucas would yesterday confirm they had had negotiations.

Amex decides to withdraw bank outlet from sale

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN EXPRESS, the US financial services company, has withdrawn its banking subsidiary from sale after months of talks with prospective buyers. The move may herald a slowdown in the wave of strategic takeovers and mergers that has swept the US banking industry this year with a total value of more than \$30 billion.

The Amex bank, which might have fetched about \$1 billion, had attracted interest from several possible buyers this year. Mike O'Neill, a bank spokesman, said: "We took these approaches seriously and in looking at a potential sale we identified others who might be interested too."

Amex decided that there was more value in keeping the bank than selling it. Harvey Golub, Amex chairman and chief executive, said: "We believe the bank will create more long-term value as an ongoing part of the company."

The bank has assets of \$13 billion and contributed \$80 million in net income to the

group profit of \$1.4 billion. Although headquartered in New York, it operates exclusively abroad, mainly in Asia and India, but has little direct contact with Amex's main charge-card business.

Most of the takeover activity this year has focused on domestic US banks and has been stimulated by unusually high prices in the sector. Amex's withdrawal of its bank from sale, however, suggests offers for the subsidiary were not particularly generous.

Meanwhile, third-quarter results from other big banks, suggested an increasingly patchy performance that may be the start of a slowdown in earnings for the sector.

Chase Manhattan reported a steep fall in third-quarter profits since last year, with \$283 million, compared with \$305 million at the same time in 1994, although NationsBank fared better with a 23 per cent increase in quarterly earnings of \$530 million, compared with \$431 million.

High Court to rule on Littlewoods

By SARAH BAGNALL

THE High Court is to decide this month whether Littlewoods, the retailing and football pools group, can buy back all the shares held by outside investors in a move that will restore ownership to the founding Moores family.

The company won shareholder approval for the plan in August, a month after the resignation of Sir Desmond Pitcher, vice-chairman and former chief executive. Sir Desmond's departure came after the ousting of Barry Dale, another former chief executive; Propid Guha, deputy chief executive; and several divisional board directors.

In August, the company received a £1 billion-plus takeover approach from Mr Dale. If court approval is forthcoming, Littlewoods will buy back and cancel its A and B classes of preference shares, which represent about 5 per cent of its share capital. The exercise will cost about £30 million. All the A shares are held by family members, but 36 per cent of the B shares are held by institutional shareholders.

Leasecontracts managers to share £10m payout

By MARTIN BARROW

SENIOR managers of Leasecontracts, one of the United Kingdom's largest vehicle fleet management companies, will share a payment of £10 million after the sale of the business.

Rutland Trust, which acquired an initial 75 per cent of Leasecontracts for £18.9 million in 1991, announced its sale to America's GE Capital Corporation for a total of £37.7 million yesterday.

After the exercise of employee share options, Rutland Trust will receive a total of £27.7 million. Leasecontracts has assets of about £80 million and a fleet of 13,000 vehicles.

The business will form part of Avis Fleet Services, a subsidiary of GE Capital Corporation. After the acquisition, Avis will lease and manage more than 70,000 vehicles in the United Kingdom and more than 193,000 throughout Europe. Alex D'Adda, former man-

aging director of Leasecontracts, will serve as business adviser to Avis.

Rutland Trust will use the proceeds of the disposal to part-fund the £52.45 million acquisition of Maritime Transport Services, which owns the deep water container port of Thamesport on the Isle of Grain, 35 miles southeast of London, and Maritime Haulage Ltd, a national road haulier.

Maritime Transport Services was the subject of a venture capital and management buyout in 1989, through which more than £100 million was invested to develop the new container port.

The original buyout fell short of expectations after the abolition of the National Dock Labour Scheme and only recently have container volumes given rise to cash flow surpluses in the wake of a major financial restructuring by the vendor banks in 1993.

Rutland Trust shares rose 4p to 35½p yesterday.

Highland down from the moors

THE hunt is on for younger, urban whisky drinkers. Highland Distillers, suffering flat profits and falling UK sales of Famous Grouse, is to target them with Black Bottle, which it bought recently from Allied Domecq, (Christine Buckley writes).

Brian Ivory, chief executive, said: "Famous Grouse is Scottish, upmarket and rural. Black Bottle will be more urban and contemporary." Famous Grouse saw its market share slip from 13.8 per cent to 13 per cent and home profits fell £1 million.

Pre-tax profit rose 1 per cent to £42.9 million in the year to August 31, on sales 3 per cent up at £180.6 million. A final 6p dividend (5.5p) payable January 11, makes 7.9p (7.26p).

Tempus, page 28



Seeking happier times: Brian Ivory, chief executive of Highland Distillers, who is targeting urban drinkers

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Boys	Bank	Boys
Australia \$	2.19	2.09	2.19	2.09
Austria Sch	16.79	15.29	16.79	15.29
Belgium Fr	46.11	44.81	46.11	44.81
Canada C	2.218	2.09	2.218	2.09
Cyprus Cyp	0.751	0.69	0.751	0.69
Denmark Kr	8.31	8.51	8.31	8.51
Finland Mk	7.25	6.8	7.25	6.8
France Fr	8.21	7.58	8.21	7.58
Germany Dm	2.40	2.19	2.40	2.19
Greece Dr	362.00	357.00	362.00	357.00
Hong Kong S	12.82	11.82	12.82	11.82
India Ru	1.00	0.05	1.00	0.05
Israel Sh	5.1290	4.4789	5.1290	4.4789
Italy Lit	2675.00	2480.00	2675.00	2480.00
Japan Yen	172.00	165.00	172.00	165.00
Malta	0.595	0.544	0.595	0.544
Netherlands Gld	2.695	2.45	2.695	2.45
New Zealand S	2.55	2.31	2.55	2.31
Norway Kr	10.43	9.68	10.43	9.68
Portugal Esc	247.00	230.00	247.00	230.00
S Africa Rd	11.53	10.75	11.53	10.75
Spain Ptas	200.00	187.00	200.00	187.00
Sweden Kr	11.53	10.75	11.53	10.75
Switzerland Fr	1.95	1.77	1.95	1.77
Turkey Lira	1.95	1.77	1.95	1.77
USA \$	1.972	1.942	1.972	1.942

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates are at close of trading yesterday.



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City talking shop opens for business □ Asda sells a healthy image □ Cedric Brown is a victim of the British class system

Panel beating

□ MOTORCYCLES, textiles, the film industry — you name them, they have all been grateful recipients of a British government committee to drum up prospects worldwide. They have all sunk gently into the West nonetheless. Now, Heaven help us, it is the City's turn. The City Promotion Panel, which held its inaugural meeting yesterday, is a broad church, as it would have to be to contain preachers from such mutually antagonistic creeds as Charlotte Square, the Corporation of London and the Treasury itself.

The Panel's *raison d'être* is a series of consultations with City practitioners this year. This research fully justified the existence of the body that set it in train, as such research is inclined to. The City, apparently, said that what it had always wanted was a body to co-ordinate efforts to sell its expertise worldwide. This is not a topic of conversation that dominates many City lunchables, so the Panel is to be congratulated for unearthing a sub-stratum of true believers in the necessity for it to exist.

Project early this year, which also looked at how to promote the City, came to one reasonable conclusion that while firms have every incentive to market their own services, they do not necessarily want further entrants dragged to London to provide extra competition.

There is something profoundly depressing about these talking shops of the great and the good who take it upon themselves to toil in oak-panelled rooms on behalf of those less fortunate, even over and above the ghastly committee-speak the eventual deliberations are usually couched in. The City competes successfully against its competitors around the world because it does the good job its clients have come to expect — a fact reflected by the arrival of one continental player after another keen to relocate its main base of operations to the Square Mile.

Kenneth Clarke has already enjoyed an agreeable Far East trip this year, supposedly on the stump for the Square Mile. Cynics might wonder whether he is now looking beyond the date of the next election, and cementing

his ties with one or two potential part-time employers should he and some of his colleagues be required to spend a little more time with their families.

Here is one idea for the rejuvenation of the City as a leading world financial centre that can attract outside investment with the best. Get rid of the wretched ring of plastic that makes it impossible to drive from one end to another in much less than half an hour.

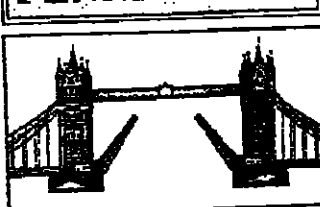
Instead, the committee threatens to go for a new logo to achieve "over-arching branding". At that rate they will end up underneath the arches.

Atishoo, chemists catch a cold

□ NO-ONE ever died for want of a bookshop. Medicines are another matter. Pharmacists rightly worry that their customers will be lured to out-of-town supermarkets for cut price vitamins and any other medications that have their prices slashed.

Archie Norman was cheered on when he helped break the

PENNINGTON



price-fixing cartel on books. Delia Smith may be the biggest beneficiary as her winter cook-book sold more than 500,000 in one week. Her followers may not need to supplement their diets, but everyone at some time needs cough linctus or cold cures.

Asda carefully does not say that these are targets in its battle against price maintenance. It does not want to alarm the elderly and the poor that their local chemist might be forced out of business. Small shops serving communities rely on the sale of extras when patients collect prescriptions. Without them they may not survive. Then how would the old and ailing have their prescriptions made up?

Mr Norman is canny enough

not to want the death of the chemist's shop on his record. Poor people cannot afford pricey vitamins or supplements. So the most vulnerable pharmacies are unlikely to be put out of business by this move. He wants the Office of Fair Trading to take the rap for deciding that it is not in the public interest to make such large profits on ginseng and evening primrose oil.

He also wants a greater share of an over-the-counter market worth £2 billion a year. If the OFT rules that margins on home medicines are too high then Asda and Archie Norman will be heroes. And the government will have the funding problem if it wants to keep dispensing chemists close to doctors' surgeries. Margins on prescription drugs have been cut and pharmacists who sell customers cheaper home medicines instead are threatened with prosecution. They need to be paid properly for the social role they fill.

In the meantime Mr Norman must be pleased, on the day that Tesco opened the Christmas shopping price wars, to be seen as the supermarket Santa want-

ing to take on the evil cartel of drugs companies who insist that their brand-name products are sold at high prices. Bah humbug.

New men inherit the gas mantle

□ CEDRIC Brown, Britain's most maligned businessman, may well have a case for the European Court of Human Rights. The poor chap was so low-paid for a top company chief executive that he had to have his basic bumped up 75 per cent to allow the new part-time chairman to be paid at a rate to which he was accustomed and which the new recruits he planned to bring in might expect.

Result: Mr Brown is vilified as chief "fat cat" and public enemy number one. Chairman Richard Giordano, the man who caused this, faces a couple of unpleasant meetings. The new fat kittens hide anonymously behind their chief.

The unsullied kittens from GEC and ICI have now been allotted their first annual instalment of shares in the Giordano

long-term incentive scheme, currently worth about £700,000, though only cashable if the company's shares perform above the average. Poor Mr Brown, still scarred by the last episode, counted himself out. Messrs Gardner, Rogerson and Brandon clearly felt no need for boardroom solidarity.

Mr Brown is a victim of the British class system. Mr Giordano is an American toff with an international management pedigree. The kittens have proper business qualifications, with impressive initials after their names or in their CVs. Clearly, such people deserve to be paid the going rate, however ludicrous that might be. Market forces, old boy.

Our Cedric, however is but a working class lad who got a cushy job in the public service and swotted at night school to help him climb up the British Gas ladder. He should only be paid the same as the bloke next door and put his quid on the lottery if he wants to be rich.

Never mind. Browns are an endangered species at British Gas. The other two executive directors who learned their trade there have been eased out. There will be no more reminders of the stoppy bad old days when British Gas would not even bother to send a bill to a customer blown up in a gas leak.

Disclosure rules hit Prudential

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

STRICTER rules on the disclosure of sales commission and a lack of consumer confidence triggered a worldwide 13 per cent fall in new business for the Prudential, Britain's largest insurer.

Describing sales of life and pensions products as difficult, Peter Davis, group chief executive, said worldwide annual premium sales fell by 13 per cent to £342 million and single premium sales by 14 per cent to £321 billion for the first nine months of this year.

The corporation said the new disclosure rules meant sales staff were spending twice as long explaining products to customers, leaving them little time to contact new clients. Peter Newell, group chief actuary, said the process needed to be simplified.

In the UK, investment product sales, including Peps and unit trusts, declined by 65 per cent to £47 million, and sales of regular premium investment products fell 67 per cent to £27 million. Single premium life and pensions sales fell 18 per cent to £1,276 billion, while sales of annual premium life and pension products were down by 10 per cent to

£183 million. Mr Davis said: "Market conditions remain tough in the UK, although both regular and single premium sales in the third quarter have shown some improvement due predominantly to stronger corporate pensions sales. We continue to work on refining our sales process to accommodate the needs of disclosure and believe we are beginning to see the benefits of these actions."

The Prudential is still the subject of a formal regulatory investigation by Lauro on the issue of past pension transfer sales. In March, it said it had made a specific provision to cover compensation payments to people who may have been mis-sold personal pensions.

Alan Richards, insurance analyst with James Capel, said the Prudential's figures for the first nine months were "typical" of the fall in new UK insurance business. He added: "Consumer confidence is weak, wages growth is flat and quite a lot of people are leaving their money in building societies because of all the activity going on there."

Times, page 28

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Corporate kiss of life

UNLIKE the big companies that have either ended or reduced financial support for the Tory Party, Hanson has made it clear that it will keep sending its annual £100,000 to Central Office. Yesterday, Derek Bonham, the chief executive, put the political contribution into perspective with news that Hanson is donating £75,000 to the St John Ambulance Brigade "Breath of Life" campaign. Jill Scott, the Brigade's superintendent-in-chief, says the Hanson funds will enable it to offer anyone in Britain a chance to learn to save lives. With the £1 million Hanson is already giving to US Emergency Medical Services, it seems that the company is prepared to do far more for medical emergencies than for restoring Conservative political health.

Going Dutch

THE difficulties facing charities in attracting donations in competition with the National Lottery and other rivals for our money is all too evident. Some 550 delegates plan to be in The Netherlands next week for the 15th International Fundraising Workshop next Tuesday. Maybe St John Ambulance could help.

Just the job?

SPECULATIVE investors are showing a surprising degree of interest in a tiny specialist recruitment business, shares of which trade on the Alternative Investment Market. Latest accounts disclose that Graduate Appointments earned £100,000 in its last full financial year. There is nothing exceptional about this company, except that the shares have doubled in value to 35p since September 30. Oh, and by the way, the chairman is Maurice Saatchi and the directors include Josephine Hain, also known as Mrs Saatchi. Do they know something we don't?

HIGH STREET CHEMIST



"Think I'll pop down to Asda and get something for a headache"

Culture shock

THE ever-controversial Brigitte Seebacher-Brandt, widow of Willy Brandt, the German Chancellor, has been hired by Deutsche Bank to head its culture department. As she moved into her office in Frankfurt yesterday, it emerged that Frau Seebacher-Brandt has named a savage attack on Bernhard Beitz, an icon of German postwar industry and one of the few Germans (another is Oskar Schindler) to be honoured at the Holocaust memorial in Israel.

Grave offer

CRITICS of the lavish use of taxpayers' money to attract big inward investment projects to Britain should look to the land of the pharaohs to see how seriously others take this business. During a recent visit to Cairo, Tomichi Murayama, the Japanese Prime Minister, turned down an offer from Hosni Mubarak, the Egyptian President, of a pyramid building in exchange for Toyota cars. Murayama is understood to have politely explained that crowded Japan had no space for a pyramid. One wonders what could be lured to Britain with Cleopatra's Needle.

Shifting patterns in the jobs market blur political picture

Unemployment is far from being the one-way bet it was for Labour, says Philip Bassett

Britain's political leaders returned from their summer break and seaside conference yesterday, just before the Government announced the latest unemployment figures. Ministers hope that they will show tomorrow a further fall in unemployment — but they also know that they will prompt the usual political knockabout on the economy, whatever the figures.

In advance of the official figures, *The Times* shows the current state of political unemployment — how a key feature of the economic environment is now affecting Britain's principal political parties.

Using figures held on government computers, an analysis by *The Times* of current unemployment levels in all 651 constituencies shows that the complex pattern of political unemployment is again shifting.

Previous studies by *The Times* have shown that as the recession of the early 1990s began to bite, with job cuts hitting many white-collar workers for the first time, unemployment in Conservative parts of Britain rose five times as fast as in Labour areas, although the level of unemployment was much higher in Labour areas.

After the first wave of job-shedding, the rise in Tory-area unemployment slackened, and after unemployment began to fall in December 1992, the easing of recession saw a sharp reverse, with unemployment falling twice as fast in Conservative parts of Britain as in Labour areas.

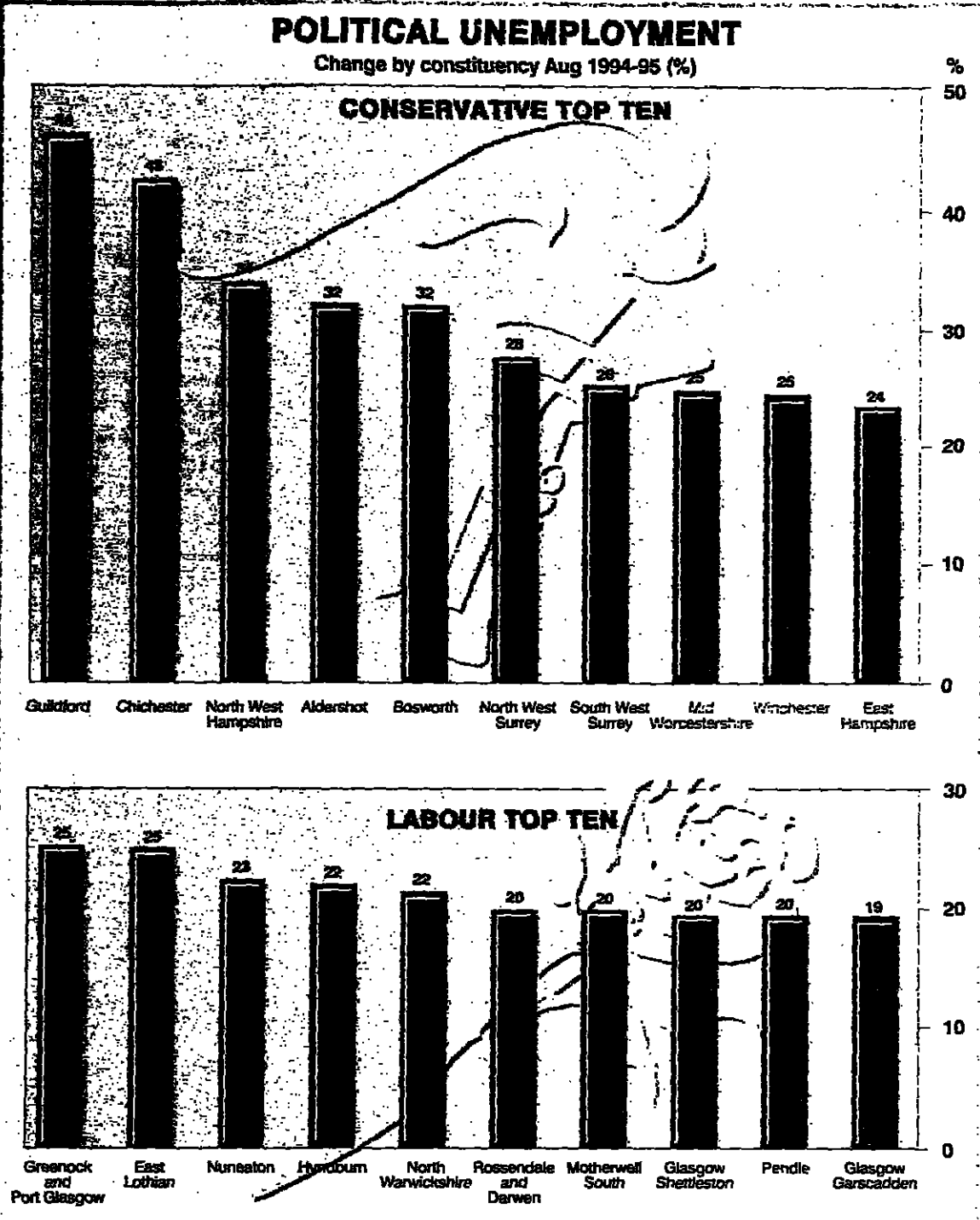
Now the picture is changing again, with the politics of unemployment unwinding much more evenly. Over the past year, for instance, unemployment overall has fallen by almost 11 per cent. Unemployment in Conservative areas is falling faster than that, but not by quite as much as unemployment in Labour areas. In Conservative seats, it is falling less quickly — down on average by 9.6 per cent. In Liberal Democrat seats, it is close to the average, with a fall of 10.3 per cent. But looked at over a slightly longer period, the picture becomes more complex.

Over the period from when unemployment began to fall until a year ago, Labour unemployment fell 8.8 per cent, while the drop in Conservative and Lib-Dem areas was 15 per cent. So the most recent changes mean that the sharp fall in Tory and Lib-Dem areas is easing markedly, while the decline in Labour areas is actually accelerating. Unemployment is still higher in Labour areas, reflecting their demographic composition: Labour's votes still tend to be concentrated in the North, Scotland, the North West and Wales, which have been hit hardest by industrial restructuring. Average Labour unemployment, which makes up 49 per cent of the total in Britain, now stands at 4.291 for each seat. Put another way, there are now just over 1.16 million people out of work in Labour-held areas.

In Conservative-held areas, which comprise 43 per cent of Britain's total unemployment, the average number of people out of work in each seat is 3,029 — a quarter less than the Labour average. Total unemployment in Conservative areas stands at a notch more than one million. Lib-Dem unemployment is lower still: a total of 70,400, it averages 2,934 per seat and accounts for only 3 per cent of the UK total.

Looking back over the last year, unemployment has fallen in virtually every constituency in the country, in line with the overall national decline. In seven constituencies, all of them in the geographically peripheral areas of the North, Wales and Scotland, it is still rising.

Conservative seats dominate the top



ten list of constituencies that have seen the largest falls, although the relatively lower impact of unemployment in Scotland is reflected in two of the top ten falls being in the Labour-held Scottish seats of Greenock and Port Glasgow — areas now dominated by high-tech computer industry work.

Labour has one other entry in the top 20 — Nuneaton, which has seen the 19th-largest fall — and two further in the top 25 — nearby North Warwickshire, at 23, and Hyndburn in the North West, at 22. Regionally, two-thirds of the top 25 falls are in the South East. At the other end of the scale, of the worst-performing 25 seats in terms of unemployment change, 16 are held by Labour, and four by the Conservatives. Regionally, the spread is more diverse, although Wales, Scotland, the North, North West and Yorkshire account for four-fifths of them.

The illustration shows the top ten seats in terms of unemployment decline over the last year for the two main parties. The biggest falls for the Liberals were in Christchurch and Newbury — both of them southern seats won in by-elections from the Conservatives — followed by an 18 per cent fall in Yeovil, the seat of Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal leader.

For the top 25 Conservative seats, the regional bias is remarkable, with the South East taking as many as 20 of the top 25 places, suggesting that the electoral impact of unemployment on core Tory voters in the South East may now be easing, if not fully gone.

Even more remarkable is the cluster-

ing of areas with large unemployment falls in a triangle stretching southwest from London, and centred on Hampshire and bordering areas. Eight out of the top ten Tory unemployment-drop areas are in this one small zone, suggesting a remarkable jobs renaissance in the area.

Almost as remarkable is the Scottish factor in Labour's best-performing unemployment areas. Of Labour's top 25, 12 are in Scotland, with the North West and the West Midlands picking up pretty well all the rest.

The political differential becomes sharper when examined by actual levels of unemployment — the number of people actually out of work in each constituency, rather than the percentage changes in the level over the last year.

Of the constituencies with the highest levels of unemployment, as many as 21 out of the top 25 are Labour-held. Inner city areas dominate, especially inner London, but with Birmingham, Manchester and Sheffield also coming in. Apart from Simon Hughes's inner city Southwark seat for the Lib-Dems, the only others are a group of seats in Northern Ireland. There are no Conservative seats at all in the highest 25 areas. Labour also holds the seat with the lowest level of unemployment in the country — Greg Pope's Hyndburn, where 1,776 people were out of work in August, the latest month for which details of constituency unemployment are obtainable.

But with only a few other oddities, Conservative seats dominate the low-unemployment top 25 — 18 of the total.

Unemployment is higher in John Major's constituency than it is in Tony Blair's

For the record at Lloyd's of London

From Mr Alfred Doll-Steinberg, Sir, Nicholas Doak of Lloyd's writes (October 13) that at least one of my statements in "Putting the heat on Lloyd's" (October 6) "is designed to persuade readers to arrive at conclusions which are incorrect".

Although he does not say which one, Mr Doak seems to mean my statement that Lloyd's capacity in 1988 was £14 billion, rather than £11 billion which he prefers. There are several ways of measuring Lloyd's capacity but they all confirm the point I was actually making: namely that it doubled between 1983 and 1988, an unprecedented 15 per cent annual growth, with little corresponding growth in income. I did not "design" this point; I took it straight from the January 1992 Report of the Task Force chaired by David Rowland (now Lloyd's chairman). There, on page 58 Lloyd's capacity expressed in constant 1991 pounds is shown as £13 billion in 1988 and £6.5 billion in 1983, and on page 54 one may read: "4.3a) From 1967-83 capacity grew at around 3 per cent p.a." "4.3b) from 1983-88 there was a 5-year period of rapid growth in real capacity. The growth rate was over 15 per cent p.a., far in excess of premium growth rates."

Mr Doak also objects to my saying that the new settlement offer was "rushed out". But whenever it had its genesis, as Mr Doak puts it, there can be no doubt that it was sprung half-baked, the day before the Parliamentary Committee issued its damning report, in order to pre-empt the media's attention. Just how unfit for consumption it really was is obvious. Last week Lloyd's admitted that even now, nearly six months later, the offer is not sufficiently defined to give any details.

Yours faithfully, ALFRED DOLL-STEINBERG 18 Holly Walk, NW3.

C&W getting through to shareholders

Prospect of deals cheers investors after months of inactivity, says Eric Reguly

Cable and Wireless is finally on the verge of announcing some deals. None of them is expected to transform the shape of C&W profoundly, but shareholders would welcome any signs of life at the beleaguered company.

Indeed, investor confidence has been exceedingly low for some time. C&W, led by Lord Young of Graffham, 63, executive chairman, has been accused of doing little to enhance shareholder value while telecoms companies around it, notably AT&T, have unveiled radical overhauls. They think C&W has missed opportunities in the fast-changing telecoms world and has strained to justify its global "federation" strategy.

Confidence sagged even further in September when Duncan Lewis, 43, resigned as chief executive of Mercury Communications. Mr Lewis, who had been invited to join the main C&W board, bailed out because he could not make sense of the group's strategy either. Lord Young has little to say about Mr Lewis's departure, other than to emphasise that it "saddened" him because he considered him a potential successor in a few years to James

Ross, 57, C&W's current chief executive. But he does say that C&W is about to pick up momentum on the transaction front.

C&W, he said, is likely to announce several deals over the next year that will address what the City sees as immediate problems areas within the group — Mercury and C&W's American business. Other transactions, including one on the mobile phone front in Europe and another related to its investment in Optus, the second telecoms operator in Australia, are also brewing.

Mercury, under Mr Lewis, has cut its costs dramatically and shifted its focus to concentrate almost exclusively on the high-margin corporate market. But its future is uncertain because it lacks access to the broad consumer market and its apparent desire for interactive services.

To cure the problem, Mercury may seek alliances with, or even merge with, the fast-growing cable companies. They could provide it with potentially millions of resi-

dential customers. Mercury could provide them with long-distance and international connections through the C&W's global network.

Lord Young would not give details, but the idea has been under discussion for some time. Bell Canada International, which owns 20 per cent of Mercury, has been pursuing the strategy without success. Bell Cablemedia, 42 per cent owned by Bell Canada and 13 per cent by C&W, is one logical cable partner. Another is Videotron, in which Bell Canada has a minority interest.

The US strategy is clearer and likely to happen sooner. Lord Young said he hoped to sign partnerships with some of the "Baby Bells", the regional phone companies that were shorn from AT&T by government order in 1983. US West, which shares ownership of Mercury One-2-One, the third largest mobile phone network, with C&W, seems the most likely partnership candidate. Regulatory changes will soon allow the Baby Bells to compete with

AT&T in the long-distance market, while AT&T will be allowed back into the regional market. "Once the Baby Bells have the opportunity to go international, they'll need a partner," Lord Young said. Networks run by AT&T, MCI and Sprint will be out of bounds as competitors, unlike C&W.

The group has been looking for a way to boost its US presence since 1992, when it decided against buying a stake in MCI, the second-largest long-distance company. BT seized the opportunity instead, buying 20 per cent of MCI for \$4.3 billion last year.

In Europe, C&W is considering forming a broad mobile phone alliance with Veba, its German partner. Veba may even take a stake in One-2-One to cement the relationship.

C&W's effort to show its face after months of inactivity is winning kudos in the City. UBS has upgraded its recommendation on C&W to a "buy". Andrew Beale, of UBS, said: "We see evidence of five or more deals over the next six months, which would highlight value and cause C&W to trade at a lower discount to its parts."

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THE TIMES TUESDAY OCTOBER 17 1995

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POETRY

Was John Keats, born 200 years ago this month, the most gifted of the English Romantics?

POP

Sonya Madan sang of *Great Things*, but Echobelly never transcended the aura of heavy rock histrionics

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE

The Maitlands, Mackenzie's 1930s drama of emotions in genteel turmoil, is revived in London

MUSIC

A new cantata from Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, *The Three Kings*, proves to be unpretentious fare

Season of shallow forgetfulness

Two hundred years after the birth of John Keats, the great Romantic's poetry is in danger of falling into neglect, says Judith Chernaik

John Keats's grandfather owned the livery stables at the Swan and Hoop Inn in Finsbury, north London: his father was head ostler, and Keats was born there 200 years ago this month, on October 31, 1795. Some 22 years later, when being attacked by Tory reviewers for his presumption in rewriting classical myth, the poet wrote to his brother George, in America: "This is a mere matter of the moment - I think I shall be among the English poets after my death."

He was right, of course. He was the favourite poet of Tennyson and his fellow Apostles at Cambridge; the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood placed him among the Immortals, alongside Dante, Homer and Chaucer ("the few far-seeing ones [who] revealed vast visions of beauty to mankind"). His poems entered Victorian popular culture in cheap mass editions. And until recently, especially among the young, he was probably the best-loved English poet after Shakespeare.

All this has changed, and it is the rare pupil who "does" Keats or any other Romantic poet at school. A few years ago, all 14-year-olds were required to read *To Autumn*; now Keats is on a very long list of pre-20th century poets. Though the nation voted him top of the pops last week, with Kipling, Tennyson and Yeats, his mysteries no longer cease the imagination of every adolescent.

Keats believed, with Milton, that poetry should be "simple, sensuous and passionate", and he was deeply suspicious of theory. But he was very fond of speculating about art and life. His letters are as fresh and spontaneous as the poems are crafted and honed: "O for a life of sensations rather than of thoughts!" "We hate poetry that has a palpable design upon us, and if we disagree, seems to put its hand in its breeches pocket" (said of Wordsworth, whom Keats otherwise revered).

The published letters begin in 1816, after Keats had been appointed a dresser to surgeons at Guy's Hospital and a certified apothecary, and was about to give it all up for poetry, with the help of a small legacy. As he made his entry into London literary circles, there were dinners and dances; breakfast in Hampstead with Leigh Hunt, who published Keats's poems in the

Examiner, his radical journal: meetings with Shelley, Hazlitt and Wordsworth; visits to the theatre and galleries; excursions to the Isle of Wight, Margate, rainy Devon. One theme runs through the correspondence: his burning ambition to make himself into a poet through "application, study and thought".

He planned to follow a summer's walking tour in the Lake District and Scotland with three years' European travel, when he would read Dante, study history and philosophy, and practise his craft. But his brother Tom fell gravely ill and Keats nursed him until Tom died, at 19; Keats himself had a persistent sore throat, and took

It is a rare pupil now who does Keats or any other Romantic at school

mercury for suspected syphilis. (He wrote to a friend in his confidence: "You are sensible no man can set down venery as a bestial or joyless thing until he is sick of it.") Time was suddenly short. He worked at his epic in the style of *Paradise Lost* (*Hyperion*, abandoned in mid-sentence in Book 3); and within a year composed one masterpiece after another: the great *Odes*, *La Belle Dame sans Merci*, the erotic verse tales *Lamia* and *The Eve of St Agnes*.

At the same time he fell hopelessly in love with the 18-year-old Fanny Brawne, his neighbour at Wentworth Place, Hampstead (now Keats House). His letters to Fanny shocked Matthew Arnold and other Victorians by their "coarseness". But by this time Keats had haemorrhaged and knew his love and life were doomed: as he told his friend Charles Armitage Brown: "I know the colour of that blood - it is arterial blood - I cannot be deceived in that colour - that drop of blood is my death-warrant - I must die." The doctors bled him, put him on a starvation diet and banned the reading and especially the writing of poetry.

There followed the long miserable voyage to Rome and the months of "posthumous existence" until his death in February 1821, aged 25.

Where does his poetry stand today? A recognisable presence in the poems of Seamus Heaney and Ted Hughes, he is largely ignored by younger poets: his language is too lush, his rhythms too seductive (too "effeminate," Hopkins said). He makes a poor subject for the deconstruction and contextualisation of academic critics: he is too transparently devoted to art, and to what he called "the principle of beauty in all things". But he would be a good choice for the next set of Penguin 60s - a poet to savour on a train journey, to keep in one's coat pocket (as Shelley did on his last voyage), to grow to love for his warmth and tenderness, and the astonishing evidence in his poems of a ceaselessly working imagination.

Shelley echoes *Ode to a Nightingale* and *To Autumn* in *Adonais*, his elegy for Keats:

He is made one with Nature: there is heard
His voice in all her music, from the moan
Of thunder, to the song of night's sweet bird;
He is a presence to be felt and known
In darkness and in light, from herb and stone.

But Keats's poems are not primarily about the music of nature; they are about the power of art to express human passions and to assuage human suffering, and to embody the deepest paradoxes of life. Nor did Keats, in his terrible last weeks, have any confidence in a power "which wields the world with never-wearied love": he was conscious only of the bitter unfairness of life. Unable to write poetry in his last year, too weak to read, he gave his friend Severn, a week before he died, his epitaph: "Here lies one whose name was writ in water".

This time, fortunately, he was wrong. The British Library exhibition, *John Keats 1795-1821*, opens in the Crawford Room tomorrow and runs until Jan 28. Poems on the Underground is displaying the first stanza of *To Autumn* from November 1. As part of a special BBC season, Omnibus will present *The Last Journey of John Keats* on Oct 30 on BBC1. The *Eve of St Agnes* will be broadcast on Oct 29 on Radio 4 at 2.30pm.



Keats listening to the *Nightingale* on Hampstead Heath, by Joseph Severn. The poet had a final burst of creativity before his doctors advised him not to read or write anything

POP

Trying too hard

Echobelly
Empire, W12

THEY have wonderful songs, a young, charismatic frontwoman, plenty of spiky attitude and two Top Ten albums to their name. But for some reason Echobelly still don't quite fit in to the current Britpop scene. In the long run that may be no bad thing. But this show was a muddled affair which, although enjoyable, did more to disguise the fact that they are a great pop band than to capitalise on it.

The sound was aggressively loud and needlessly bass heavy. *Give Her A Gun* was an early victim of a muddy mix which favoured Andy Henderson's thunderous tom toms over Sonya Madan's alluring voice. The song was illustrated by a succession of comic-book images of, yes, women with guns, projected on to an octagonal screen behind the band. But the lighting seemed to have been designed without this factor in mind, and for most of the show the images on the screen were swamped by white light from the stage.

Great Things sparked a tremendous surge of excitement and the massed jumping on the spot among the crowd would have put even the most challenging of aerobics classes to shame. This was Echobelly at their best: a neat, three-minute blast with an optimistic, slightly risqué lyric and a bold, uplifting chorus. Twirling, with her arms aloft, Madan led the band with supreme confidence and poise.

At other times she was less assured, as when she forgot the entire first verse of *Natural Animal*. And the lyrics to songs such as *Panynhose* and *Roses* (reinforced by accompanying images of prostitutes' calling cards) and *Call Me Names* (about childhood racism) seemed to be striving for a dark resonance at odds with the bouncy feel of the tunes. With no instrumental colouring to lighten the dense interlocking guitar sound of Debbie Smith and Glenn Johansson, and little in the way of light and shade, the numbers began to sound samey. And while *Dark Therapy* successfully broke the mould, its slow, gloomy air, played at kilojoule volume took the show in the wrong direction.

The delightful *Insomniac* prompted the night's most furious burst of audience pogging and then it was back to another humourless climax with *Scream*, which ended with a hail of noise and a last, lingering vision of a hovering dove. It was a finale which found the group betrayed by their own ambition. In future they should ease off on the heavy rock histrionics, leave the portentous imagery to Flak Floyd and concentrate on playing to their own, more straightforward strengths.

BARRY MILLINGTON
DAVID SINCLAIR

Win a holiday to India

EVERY DAY until the end of December, *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, in association with Cox & Kings, are offering readers the exclusive chance to win one of 80 holidays for two to a range of destinations throughout the world.

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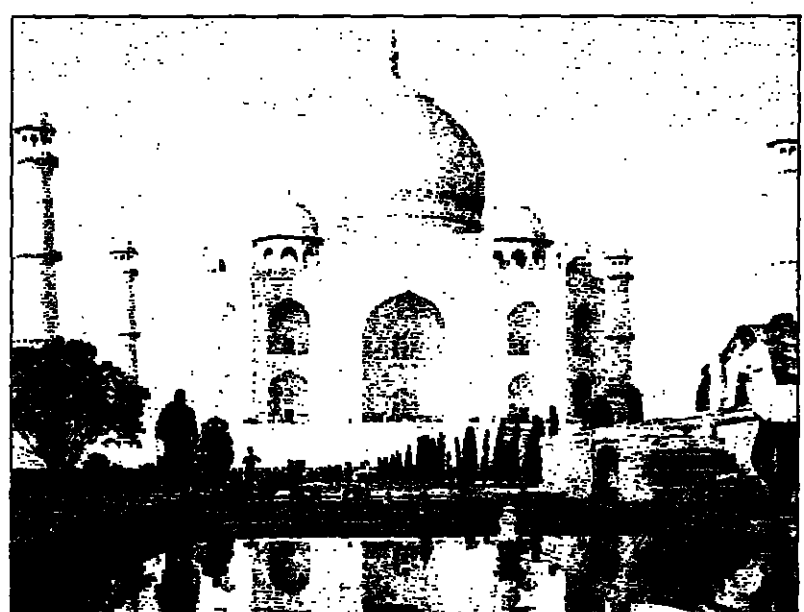
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9 and 23; Apr 6 and 20; Aug 17 and 31; Sep 14 and 28; Oct 12, 19 and 26; Nov 9, 16 and 23; Dec 7 and 21, 1996. Prices from £1,255 (down from £1,395). Price includes international & domestic flights, 12 nights twinshare accommodation, air-conditioned transport, transfers, sightseeing, services of a local escort, breakfast plus two gala dinners.

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The winner of Saturday's holiday to Chile was John Geden of Hayling Island in Hampshire.

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TOMORROW: WIN A HOLIDAY TO COSTA RICA

CONCERT

Puppet on the strings

LSO/Hickox
Barbican

CONCERT promoters are resorting to ever more desperate measures to seize the attention of uncommitted punters. Some of them could take a leaf out of the book of the London Symphony Orchestra, which invited as visually arresting a trio of soloists as one could find anywhere to play Beethoven's Triple Concerto.

The Finnish pianist Olli Mustonen has something of a reputation for idiosyncrasy, and his phrase-end flourishes have the flamboyance of a mime artist. Not to be outdone, Steven Isserlis swooned over his cello and tossed his mop of locks heroically, while violinist Thomas Zehetmair, gyrating in and out of his familiar crouching position, resembled a puppet on a string. Indeed, the whole self-parodying show seemed like a scene out of *The Muppets*.

So compelling was the spectacle that it would have been almost a distraction if the musical performance had been as satisfying. Mustonen knocks out the notes in a very forthright way, while many of Isserlis's exquisitely crafted

phrases were only partially audible. Zehetmair's scratchy and often ill-tuned tone did not help matters.

Despite an odd stage arrangement (neither string player could make eye contact with the pianist) and despite Mustonen's eccentricities (he has a habit of accentuating the least important note of a phrase), there was an instinctive rapport at work, and Richard Hickox drew a stylish performance from the LSO. To celebrate its 30th anni-

versary, the London Symphony Chorus commissioned from Peter Maxwell Davies a major choral work, and after the interval they gave its world premiere. *The Three Kings* is a setting of Christmas poems by George Mackay Brown, with interpolated 15th-century carols in Latin. The 21 movements are played continuously, the sung texts being interspersed with instrumental transitions. Apart from the odd phrase of Latin chant (composed by Davies), and two or three vintage rumanic outbursts, there is not a great deal of individuality in the vocal writing.

A quartet of fine soloists - Ingrid Attrot, Pamela Helen Stephen, Nigel Robson and Stephen Roberts - succeeded in injecting some colour, and the orchestral commentary was eloquently unfolded by the LSO under Hickox. As a simple, unpretentious Christmas cantata, *The Three Kings* will take its modest place in Davies's oeuvre.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Little light to lift the Depression

THEATRE

The Maitlands
Orange Tree,
Richmond



Barrie Hudson and Adam Sims in *The Maitlands*

SIXTY years ago, the anonymous *Times* critic decided that this was an unequal play: its first two acts called for a sturdier plot than its author could muster, while the third contained more than he was able to handle without the final cascade of disillusiones proving really rather comical.

The author was Ronald Mackenzie and already dead, killed in a car driven by his speed-mad girlfriend outside Dinard. It all sounds very *Vile Bodies*, although the lives of the characters in his two plays - his first, *Musical Chairs*, ran for more than 300 performances in 1932 - are very different from those of Agatha Runcible and Lady Metroland.

The Maitlands family lives in genteel poverty in a depressing seaside village near Bournemouth, where son Roger teaches at a minor public

school and crams a stodgy adolescent in order to pay for his wife to recuperate on the Riviera.

Events in the first two acts may be less sturdy than my predecessor required, but a fair amount happens nonetheless. Roger's wife sends a letter to say she is leaving him; cousin Phyllis decides to marry the schoolboy's military father in order to escape her humourless aunt; Roger's brother Jack, now a glamorous actor, returns to the family

who would never make a character badly; announce "We had a child - you know - who died," although the "you know" is a good touch.

The insuperable problem is the dullness of Roger, a character that John Hudson, even when playing drunk, does not persuade us to find interesting. Nor does Hudson make him seem a 1930s person, whereas the rest of Sam Walters's cast at least manage this. Matthew Radford's Jack has the bouncing egotism the role demands, and Constance Barrie catches the delicate shading of Joan's naivety as it becomes purposeful.

Mackenzie certainly possessed creative skills, cleverly revealing deeper qualities in the galling Major (Gordon Reid) - and Walters does us a service in shining his torch into the forgotten crannies of British theatre between the wars. But it is odd that he points it first at this, possibly an unreviewed work, instead of at the one that was a success at the time, and therefore a surer guide both to Mackenzie's qualities and the popular taste of the day.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Power, and a h pitting

WAS OF AFRICA



■ VISUAL ART 1

More than the ultimate heritage soap-opera: Tudor and Jacobean riches from Hans Holbein

■ VISUAL ART 2

... to Anthony Van Dyck go on display in the Tate's sumptuous new *Dynasties* show

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ VISUAL ART 3

Frozen shapes for living movement: the sculptor Richard Deacon goes into the dance business

■ TOMORROW

Baton charge: Sir Colin Davis prepares for his new life with the London Symphony Orchestra

Power, glory and a hint of spitting image

Richard Cork finds some hard reality among the Tudor vanity portraits now on show at the Tate

Clasping his gift rattle as if it were a king's full-sized sceptre, the one-year-old Prince of Wales looks like a monarch in miniature. Although his put cheeks threaten to burst out of a lavishly embroidered head-dress, little Edward strikes a regal pose with undim assurance. He trains his gaze downwards, precociously accustomed to adopting lofty vantage. And, as best the only son of Henry VII the prince's pomp body is rather in tattered garments of scarlet and gold. However unlikely he may have been in reality, Holbein here transforms him into an epitome of serene masterful stillness.

The artist gave this consummate portrait to the King as a new year's present in 1539. Henry sent him a gold cup in return, and Holbein's salaried position at court was doubtless strengthened by the exchange. He had already enjoyed magnificent patronage from the monarch, producing above all an overbearing mural in Whitehall Palace of Henry and his third wife, Jane Seymour, standing imperiously in front of the King's parents. It was a didactic assertion of enriched Tudor power.

Since the Whitehall mural was destroyed in the calamitous palace fire of 1698, its complete state is now known only through a stilted copy by Remigius van Leemput. But Holbein's exquisite painting of the young Prince Edward still survives, and has been lent from Washington to the Tate Gallery's major survey of painting in Tudor and Jacobean England. Whiffly entitled *Dynasties*, it can on one level be enjoyed as a superior heritage soap-opera about the values of royal and aristocratic life. But Holbein's portrait, presiding with effortless aplomb over the first room, establishes at once that it also contains some formidable works of art.

Hint of sadness tempers the magnificence of the little prince's portrait. To array so young a child in prematurely resplendent clothes is to risk stifling his natural high spirits. Edwards looks trapped as well as ennobled by the regalia he is obliged to wear. As for the shadow cast on the wall behind, it spreads like an ominous stain and hints at the

vulnerability of even the most cosseted Tudor child. Holbein stopped well short, here, of including a mortality symbol as overt as the skull he had earlier inserted in *The Ambassadors*. Even so, the most alarming implications of the shadow were borne out when Edward, severely weakened by consumption, died before he was 16.

Holbein had himself succumbed to the Plague four years after portraying the prince. His loss, at the age of 45, deprived painting in Britain of its sole outstanding practitioner. He did leave home-grown followers behind.

Haughty faces hardened by greed and cunning?

him, admittedly, but little is now known of even the finest. John Bettes the Elder, whose *An Unknown Man in a Black Cap* is the earliest painting in the Tate's collection.

The images of Mary I's reign were dominated, as her father's had been, by imported foreign portraits. Antonis Mor stands out, above all in his large and imposing portrait of the queen herself. She holds a red rose, but its fragrant presence does nothing to disguise Mary's air of implacability. She is the embodiment of rigid, authoritarian narrowness.

By this stage, the unending concentration on tough, ambitious grandees gives the show a relentless character. There is no escaping the haughty stare of faces long since hardened by greed and cunning self-aggrandisement. Otto Dix, the most unsparing portraitist of the 20th century, could hardly have been more incisive than Hans Eworth in his painting of Lady Mary Neville and her son.

Stout, invincible and buttressed by costly black garments, the redoubtable mother is probably celebrating victory in her struggle to restore the title and honours stripped from her husband

Lord Dacre, executed for murder at Tyburn in 1541. But her splendour seems a model of restraint compared with the young man beside her. For Gregory Fiennes, the 10th Baron Dacre, is a young popinjay decked out in a shameless ermine-lined gown studded with jewels. The richness of his attire contrasts with the expression on his face, vacant enough to explain why he was considered to be "a little Crack-brain".

Eworth's emphasis on gorgeous apparel was pushed to far more extravagant limits by the painters who worked for Elizabeth I. More would never have been allowed to depict the Virgin Queen with his customary eye for trenchant insight. When an especially lavish portrait of Elizabeth was commissioned from an anonymous artist after the Armada triumph, she made sure that her face was reduced to a blanched, shadowless mask. Flanked on one side by a scene from the battle, and on the other by the wrecking of the Spanish fleet, the victorious monarch's features combine the glacial hauteur of Margaret Thatcher with the teasing allure of Marlene Dietrich. She remains unknowable, and her pearl-beckoned costume only adds to the fairy-tale aura.

This is a fantastical Queen, portrayed by Marcus Gheeraerts the Younger as a blanched, auburn-haired apparition standing astride the globe like a titanic goddess. In the sky behind, the sun symbolises her glory while a thunderstorm dramatises her power. At once preposterous and sublimely hyperbolic, this dreamlike concoction represents the apotheosis of painting as regal propaganda.

The fact that Gheeraerts was chosen to execute this awesome effigy shows how foreign artists continued to hold sway at the English court. Only in miniatures were native painters really allowed to flourish. During Elizabeth's reign Nicholas Hilliard, the son of an Exeter goldsmith, emerged as our first home-grown Renaissance artist of the finest rank. Although too often condemned to produce run-of-the-mill multiple portraits of his royal patrons, Hilliard was able at best to



"A shameless appetite for ostentation": Nicholas Hilliard's portrait of George Clifford, third Earl of Cumberland

fuse virtuosity with felicitous poetic invention.

No Elizabethan was ever more irresistibly transformed than George Clifford, the third Earl of Cumberland. Portrayed by Hilliard as the Queen's Champion, braced to defend her honour in the tilting-yard at Whitehall Palace, the bearded Earl has been metamorphosed into the Knight of Pendragon Castle. The toughness of Cumberland's martial stance, clasping a phallic lance with his right hand and staring boldly out at potential challengers, is combined with a shameless appetite for ostentation. Gold stars

spatter his armoured forearms and calves, while above his hat, embellished with armillary spheres, yellow plumes rise into the air.

Hilliard's range is impressive, defining the funeral austerity of the Tavistock merchant Leonard Darr with as much conviction as he depicts a lady in ermine and pearls, resting with her devotional book on an immaculately laundered state bed. But his far larger half-length oil portrait of Elizabeth is disappointingly wooden, and Hilliard never performed with the same brio when he departed from miniature formats to

paint on panels. These prestigious tasks were largely carried out, as ever, by continental artists imported for the purpose. English-born exceptions, from the plainspoken George Gower to the theatrical William Larkin, continued to be subservient to foreign rivals.

Gheeraerts, Van Somer and Daniel Mytens dominate the final stages of the show. For a moment, in the last room, the wealthy amateur Sir Nathaniel Bacon displays extraordinary accomplishment — both as a dandified self-portraitist and a still-life painter who relishes a cookmaid's jutting

bosom as much as the sliced melon placed provocatively beside her. But only a dozen of Bacon's paintings have so far been traced, and hanging near by are supremely assured images by Rubens and his pupil Van Dyck.

They were about to win the enthusiastic patronage of Charles I, who thereby helped to ensure that British-born painters went on playing a subordinate role until Hogarth finally rebelled against foreign supremacy.

Dynasties, sponsored by Pearson plc, is at the Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (0171-897 8000) until Jan 7

AROUND THE GALLERIES

AT THE very top of a high-rise block with views across London is "plummet", a gallery in the private flat of an artist, William Shoebridge. In the current exhibition there, Tim Allen has painted straight onto two walls in one room, while Tina Keane shows a video in another. Any sense of vertigo on arrival is soon replaced by an odd awareness of gravity. Allen's painting, which seems almost backed into the corner, clings to the walls. Lines run across from left to right and then up and down, resulting in a cumulative mass of soft powder blues, reds and Naples yellow. Keane's video, showing below waist-height, follows the same principle. Film of movement, of roads and trains intercepted by bars, bands and blocks of colour, is accompanied by a powerful soundtrack. Both works address their location through unusually effective formal means.

"plummet", 49 Rahere House, Central Street, London EC1 (0171-404 3467) until Oct 31

□ Bruce Bernard has been taking photographs in painters' studios for several years. His first exhibition, which consists of 22 pictures, is much more than an account of his personal acquaintance with such artists as Lucian Freud and Francis Bacon. Each of his delicate photographs of the late Leigh Bowery posing for Freud have an almost Renaissance quality, with light falling on to the figure from a skylight. Bernard's pictures are taken with humble care and seem to carry an in-built awareness of the differing roles of the different media. Photographs of Francis Bacon, in front of a palm splattered doorway, contain a range of emotions within a single snapshot image. The artist seems to question the photographer, revealing agitation and confidence as well as self-doubt.

Peralta Pictures, 351 Portobello Road London W10 (0181-968 0173) until Oct 28

□ IN A strange non-exhibition at the Public Art Development Trust, a record of the various stages of a recently commissioned project by Angela Bullock is on temporary display. The commission was intended to encourage the artist to spend time researching, investigating and responding to the history of a particular part of the Thames. The display is not only useful in itself but also raises some serious questions about the role and permanence of public art, and the extent to which artists have to negotiate with outside forces. Bullock mapped and charted her peregrination, "from the chink to Panorama Island", photographing, reading and noting along the way, but many of her plans were eventually thwarted.

Kirkman House, 12-14 Whitfield Street London W1 (0171-580 9977) until Oct 27

□ There are probably too many of Frances Aviva Blane's dark, ambiguous but nonetheless active paintings hanging in the gallery. Each one is very distinct: despite apparent similarities, it is important that the justification for each be allowed to emerge. Blane seems to paint her way out of each picture. This kind of abstraction is about more than just the process of painting.

Curwen Gallery, 4 Windmill Street, London W1 (0171-636 1459) until Nov 3

SACHA CRADDOCK

VISIONS OF AFRICA

A daily series of items featured in the Royal Academy's current exhibition, *Africa — The Art of a Continent*



Male figure seated on a barrel, Ibibio, southeast Nigeria, wood, pigment, h. 57 cm

This figure represents a tribal elder, indicated by the goat's beard made out of ram's hair. The head-dress is a representation of a 19th-century French sailor's hat, reflecting contact with European sailing ships. The wearing of the head-dress was reserved for the *Imam*, an exclusive Ibibio title, the holder of which would sit beside the creator god at the council of the underworld.

Moving new forms of collaboration

Charles Hall previews a contemporary dance project in which French choreography meets British sculpture

Richard Deacon is an Andy Warhol fan. The *Factory*, the dance piece on which the internationally famed British sculptor has collaborated with avant-garde French choreographer Hervé Robb, is full of Warhol references, from the floral floor pattern constructed out of the dancers' costumes, to the title itself.

"The notion of 'the factory' is central to Deacon's understanding of himself as a professional artist. Professional in that he is more interested in perspiration than inspiration: his sculptures take their forms not from natural structures, but from the process of manipulating industrial materials.

His work is about construction, not revelation. He remembers taking part in a sculpture workshop and finding his neighbour working on "an enormous log, with huge sculptural presence. All I had was sheets of steel. But by the end of three weeks, his log had almost disappeared, while I had filled my space."

He made his name working with laminated wood and sheet steel, materials so malleable as to impose nothing, and give nothing, to the working sculptor: "making

them into shapes is an act of will on my part". The idea of work being fabricated to order would, of course, have been perfectly welcome to Warhol — as would Deacon's denial that his creativity is in any way "exclusive". Most artists will

tell you that accepting a commission entails making too many concessions and compromises. But it is precisely this process which intrigues him.

"It wasn't so much what we actually said that interested me," he said of *What Car*, his collaboration with the critic Lynne Cook, "as the process of negotiation which allowed us to say it." It is a process he has explored with unusual and increasing frequency, collaborating not only with Robb and Cook, but with fellow sculptor Bill Woodrow and a bevy of architects, too.

Deacon expresses satisfaction that the objects he has constructed for *The Factory* will not stand up as autonomous sculpture. He refers to them enthusiastically as "scenery".

But it's hard to imagine that Warhol would really have approved of *The Factory*, a work conceived in Paris in 1993, which shows crowds demolishing statues, reclaiming public space. The dancers are too alive, too passionate, and the audience, competing for

space with the performers, are powerful partners in the spectacle.

And Deacon's wooden forms, strange and blind though they are, are far from Warholian sterility. They are cunningly designed to complement and articulate the bodies

of dancers — objects to be rolled over and rocked upon. At one point, as the dancers rock them more and fiercely, they threaten to turn complete somersaults until, as Deacon puts it, "you forget they can't do these things for themselves". That is what fascinates him: the idea of something taking on new life.

● The *Factory* is at Riverside Studios (0181-741 2255) on Friday and Saturday at 7.30pm



Richard Deacon: his work has more to do with perspiration than inspiration

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CHOICE 1

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VENUE: Tonight and tomorrow at the Barbican

CHOICE 2

Dame Edna. Sir Les. and of course Barry Humphries, are back on stage

VENUE: From tonight at the Grand, Leeds

THE ARTS

DANCE

Moving on after Balanchine: the New York City Ballet rebuffs its critics with a fine Paris season

OPERA

Anthony Rolfe Johnson sings in a birthday performance of *Die Entführung* in Charles Mackerras's

DANCE: Nadine Meisner finds New York City Ballet tauter and tighter than ever

Reinventing the master's pieces

Is New York City Ballet busily decaying without Balanchine, or not? For years, faint but worrying rumours have been travelling across the Atlantic. They come from voices led by the influential *New Yorker* critic Arlene Croce who, two years ago, during the Balanchine Festival marking the tenth anniversary of the choreographer's death, wrote of "the catastrophically swift decline of his repertory under Peter Martins... choreography that had been designed to show dancers off now showed them up".

The issue is important because NYCB has always been rated one of the world's greatest companies — one of three, by its reckoning, with the Kirov and Paris Opera Ballets. It still is according to the reaction of press and public to the company's sold-out Paris fortnight recently, at the Châtelet Theatre. What other company can boast to have danced in the last ten years some 70 ballets by Balanchine — this century's choreographic genius — and a large chunk of Jerome Robbins's output? What other company dances an astonishingly active repertory of some 55 ballets? Its credo is the primacy of dance, rather than of dancers, yet to fulfil this it needs consummate performers.

Croce blames Martins, appointed Balanchine's co-successor with Robbins (who has since retired from the post). Talking in Paris, Martins fatalistically shrugged that no one could have pleased zealots such as Croce. "Balanchine used to say to me, 'good luck once I am dead, because people will declare that only Balanchine can rehearse Balanchine'".

Has there been a stylistic shift? If so, in my opinion, it is not for the worst. Since the company's last visit to Britain (Glasgow) in 1989, there seems to be a heightened clarity, a bracing precision, a tightening of ensembles. Every step is articulated lucidly, opened out; balances freeze; the contours of movement slash across the eye's perspective; taut positions mark the punctuation. *Symphony* in C looked spring-cleaned.

leaping out with full-on brightness, the uncluttered directness of the dancing recalling Balanchine's dictum: "Just do the steps, dear". Yet there was nothing coldly mechanical here. Musical sensibility was intact in the finely-tuned *rubato* of Nichol Hlinka's arms, smiling *brío* to the fore with Katrina Killian and Michael Byars, who bravely plunged body and soul into the breakneck *allegro vivace*.

It was interesting to note how NYCB, once considered so iconoclastic, now appears in today's fashion as a model of classical restraint. Balanchine has been out-Balanchined by European ballet, out-legged by the leggy extremes of physique and movement of the French and Russians. The *fasty* self-aggrandising signalling of technique has no place among the Americans, yet virtuously inhabits their core, at the service of the choreography. Ethan Stiefel dances with his whole body, torso arching and levering him in giddy jumps and turns; Albert Evans mixes softness with coiled-up explosiveness; Darc Kistler sends out warm radiance in Balanchine's *Walpurgisnacht Ballet* while stepping out on confident, prancing points.

Only six Balanchine ballets featured in Paris: in fact, the French presenters initially requested a season exclusively devoted to Robbins, revered in France. Robbins, never less than good, on this showing also reminded us of his staggering range. There was the jazzy, Broadway Robbins of *Gershwin Concerto* and the crowd-pleasing homage to Rogers and Astaire that is *I'm Old Fashioned*. There was the radical, astonishing Robbins of *Watermill*, Japanese in its inspiration and music, a pictorially arresting, exquisitely poetic and subtle evocation of the passion of a man's life played by the French guest artist, Jean Guiraud.

There is also the classical Robbins of *The Goldberg Variations* (too long, like its Bach accompaniment) and *2 & 3 Part Inventions*, a towering achievement from last year. Robbins mirrors beautifully the studies Bach composed to help his sons to learn the keyboard.



Paris season: New York City Ballet's Wendy Whelan and James Foyette Jr in Jerome Robbins's *2 & 3 Part Inventions*, mirroring Bach's studies

with dances built from the classroom choreographic principles that a dancer needs to learn to perform. What could have emerged as a dry academic display of steps in unison, counterpoint and canon here becomes full of surprises and an inventiveness that only truly great minds possess.

Robbins — ballet's strictest task-master — surely could not find one

fraction of reproach against the dancers. These included Martins, who, *Fearful Symmetries* (to John Adams's score) set its cast shooting across the stage in an exciting pyrotechnical continuum. It sent Parisians here glad to be alive and to have seen NYCB. Would that Londoners could have the same opportunity; Martins would like to offer it to them.

JOHN ALLISON

Birthday in the harem

Chamber Orchestra, of which he is conductor laureate, Mackerras could take time off from *Idomeneo* to perform the composer's great *Singspiel* of the same period.

No doubt *Die Entführung* will join the series of Mozart operas Mackerras has recorded with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. They have already performed it together, at the Istanbul Festival earlier this year. Indeed, on Saturday they paraded a souvenir of that visit: an "authentic" Janissary drum which the percus-

OPERA
Die Entführung aus dem Serail
Usher Hall, Edinburgh

Mackerras's interpretation had all the excitement one associates with tempo: were fast but never pushed, textures crisp but never brittle. The performance sped by. Mackerras brought with him his much-praised *Idomeneo*, Anthony Rolfe Johnson, but the tenor was less impressive here and gave a score-bound, performance short on vocal characterisation. (None of the other singers used scores.) In the second tenor role of Pedrillo, Peter Bröndel eclipsed him with

upfront singing, sensitive shaded, his Romance with light and seductive. Staffed Dean offered an equally complete portrayal of the villainous Osmin. The ladies were well contrasted, with Lillian Watson in bright voice as the wilful Blonde, and Rea Marnion — whose smoky soprano makes her a natural Mozartian — a Constantine depth. Nigel Douglas, spotting a luxuriantly upholstered turban, was the Pasha. The work flowed smoothly, with that blend of the comic and serious that is the essence of *Singspiel*.

JOHN ALLISON

LONDON

PHOENIX DANCE COMPANY A welcome return for this exciting troupe, as part of Dance Umbrella. New works from company members Chantal Donaldson and Adam Smith. 19.30. 2.30. 7.30. 9.30. 11.30. 13.30. 15.30. 17.30. 19.30. 21.30. 23.30. 25.30. 27.30. 29.30. 31.30. 33.30. 35.30. 37.30. 39.30. 41.30. 43.30. 45.30. 47.30. 49.30. 51.30. 53.30. 55.30. 57.30. 59.30. 61.30. 63.30. 65.30. 67.30. 69.30. 71.30. 73.30. 75.30. 77.30. 79.30. 81.30. 83.30. 85.30. 87.30. 89.30. 91.30. 93.30. 95.30. 97.30. 99.30. 101.30. 103.30. 105.30. 107.30. 109.30. 111.30. 113.30. 115.30. 117.30. 119.30. 121.30. 123.30. 125.30. 127.30. 129.30. 131.30. 133.30. 135.30. 137.30. 139.30. 141.30. 143.30. 145.30. 147.30. 149.30. 151.30. 153.30. 155.30. 157.30. 159.30. 161.30. 163.30. 165.30. 167.30. 169.30. 171.30. 173.30. 175.30. 177.30. 179.30. 181.30. 183.30. 185.30. 187.30. 189.30. 191.30. 193.30. 195.30. 197.30. 199.30. 201.30. 203.30. 205.30. 207.30. 209.30. 211.30. 213.30. 215.30. 217.30. 219.30. 221.30. 223.30. 225.30. 227.30. 229.30. 231.30. 233.30. 235.30. 237.30. 239.30. 241.30. 243.30. 245.30. 247.30. 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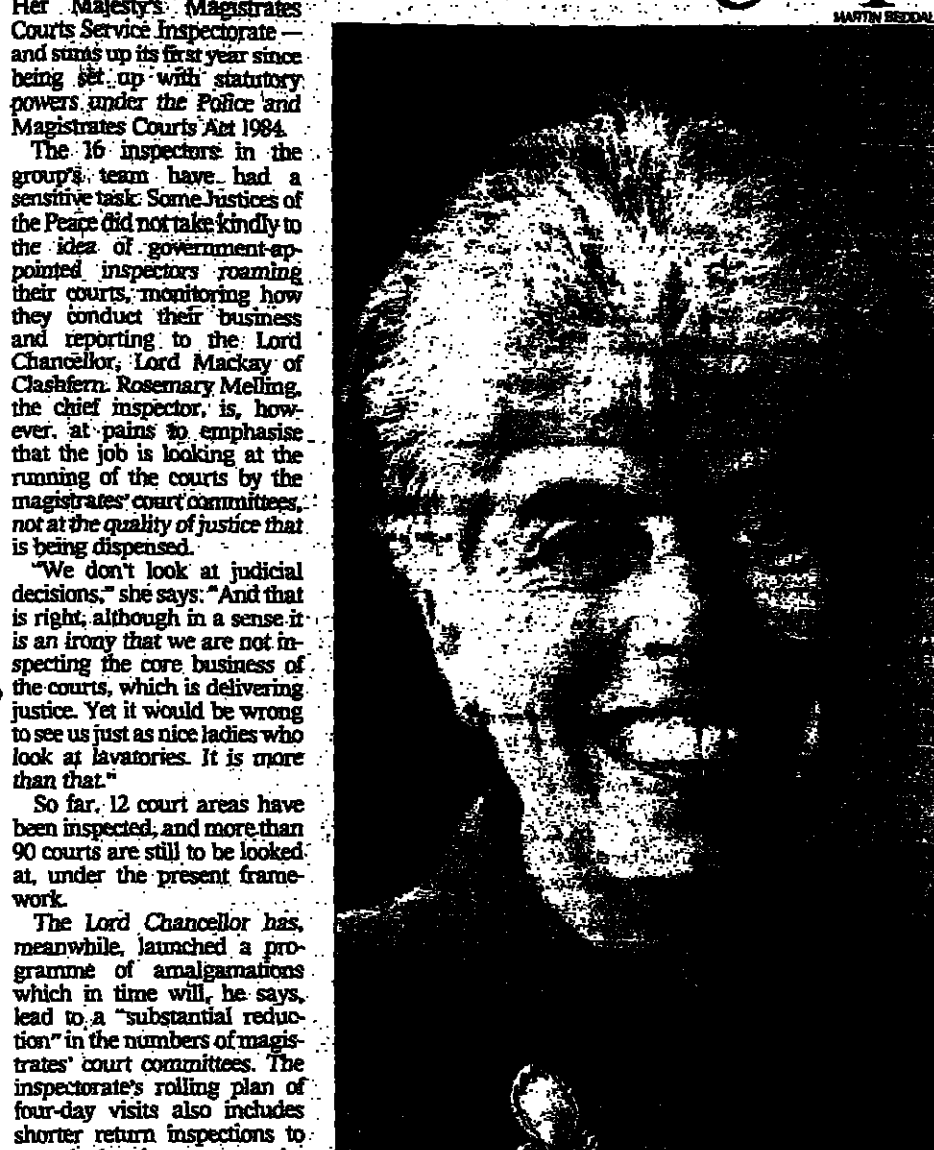
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Frances Gibb meets Rosemary Mellings, a woman with a dirty job

Court in the act of cleaning up



Rosemary Mellings: "more than nice ladies looking at loos"

Broken seats, dingy, graffiti-covered walls and litter. Not the description of an inner-city housing estate, but of some of the worst of Her Majesty's magistrates' courts. These findings are expected to be published tomorrow in a report which gives the first insight into the efficient running of courts in England and Wales. The report comes from a little-known public body called Her Majesty's Magistrates Courts Service Inspectorate — and sums up its first year since being set up with statutory powers under the Police and Magistrates Courts Act 1994. The 16 inspectors in the group's team have had a sensitive task. Some justices of the Peace did not take kindly to the idea of government-appointed inspectors roaming their courts, monitoring how they conduct their business and reporting to the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern. Rosemary Mellings, the chief inspector, is, however, at pains to emphasise that the job is looking at the running of the courts by the magistrates' court committees, not at the quality of justice that is being dispensed. "We don't look at judicial decisions," she says. "And that is right, although in a sense it is an irony that we are not inspecting the core business of the courts, which is delivering justice. Yet it would be wrong to see us just as nice ladies who look at lavatories. It is more than that."

So far, 12 court areas have been inspected, and more than 90 courts are still to be looked at, under the present framework. The Lord Chancellor has, meanwhile, launched a programme of amalgamations which in time will, he says, lead to a "substantial reduction" in the numbers of magistrates' court committees. The inspectorate's rolling plan of four-day visits also includes shorter return inspections to see whether its recommendations have been adopted. The inspectorate's conclusion, perhaps unsurprisingly, is that the service is patchy. "We have found some very good practice," Mrs Mellings says, "and some in need of development."

At the worst end of the spectrum, findings range from dingy buildings to a lack of strategic planning and poor financial planning, suggesting a lack of grip on the budgets. "Many of the committees," she

there is an impressively calm atmosphere, has plants around the walls, and booths so people can sit privately. There is also a TV set in the Youth Court waiting area. And if the seats are damaged, they replace them quickly.

By contrast, some courts are bleak, with hard seats, a lack of drinks machines, no telephones — "litter not cleaned away and loos you'd rather not go into," Mrs Mellings comments. These are not just in the inner cities. They are sometimes the small local courts a committee has struggled to keep open — and having done that, feels it cannot spend money. "Others," she says, "do manage both to keep courts up and keep them to standard."

The inspectors also look wider, at the listing of cases and at delays. In a recent report on Derbyshire, it notes "serious delays in the time for cases to be completed."

Though the committee has now drawn up plans for a review of its courthouses, the inspectors have found defendants and witnesses having to wait a long time before cases are called (at worst, this can be several hours) and few leaflets giving information about location of the court, transport and opening hours.

The report notes the inconvenience of lunchtime closing and says that many of the courthouses "lack public telephones, refreshment facilities, or separate waiting areas for witnesses or non-smokers."

The report adds that "at the time of the inspection [February], arrangements for handling prisoners at some of the courts were unacceptable."

Mrs Mellings highlights two features of inspections: the involvement of associate inspectors — staff working in the magistrates' courts — who join inspection teams for short periods. That helps to allay suspicion, she says, that they are busybodies with no understanding or knowledge of the courts.

Secondly, and as important, the inspectorate generates three reports after each visit: the full version, a summary and a public information booklet. But the inspectorate does not intend to produce any kind of "league table". "We see ourselves as a sort of proxy for the public," Mrs Mellings says. "looking at the service they receive and how it can be improved."

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Multi-armed City firm with first rate reputation in the corporate sphere seeks pension specialist at the 2-4 year qualification stage, or alternatively, a more senior lawyer whose current path to partnership is blocked. Work is of an exceptional quality, with a heavy commercial bias, serving an established corporate client base. Ideally, candidates will have a proactive and ambitious manner, combined with the ability to give practical and commercial advice. Prospects for the right candidate are excellent. (Ref:5116)

TO £35-£50,000

LITIGATION - HONG KONG

Hong Kong office of leading international practice seeks to recruit a 2-4 year qualified solicitor/barrister to join on a broad role which will entail drafting and negotiating commercial contracts, finance documentation and providing general legal advice on joint venture relationships, notably in emerging markets. Organisation has particular strength in trade and commodity finance. Unique opportunity for suitable candidate who seeks more independence and commercial involvement. (Ref:5637)

TO £35-£50,000

DOCPAT

For further information in complete confidence, on these and the many other vacancies currently registered with us, please contact Sally Horrocks, Miranda Smyth or Andrew Russell (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-377 0510 (0181-995 3396 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail: sally@zmb.co.uk

BANKING

London office of medium-sized national firm seeks 5 year plus qualified banking lawyer to join its small group. Assistant solicitor profile is such that partnership in 3-5 years is wholly realistic for the right candidate. Work is high quality mainstream banking, serving a client base which includes well known UK financial institutions. Highly unusual opportunity for ambitious and determined senior lawyer, possibly in a log-jam at one of the large City firms. (Ref:5339)

PARTNER DESIGNATE

London office of medium-sized national firm seeks 5 year plus qualified banking lawyer to join its small group. Assistant solicitor profile is such that partnership in 3-5 years is wholly realistic for the right candidate. Work is high quality mainstream banking, serving a client base which includes well known UK financial institutions. Highly unusual opportunity for ambitious and determined senior lawyer, possibly in a log-jam at one of the large City firms. (Ref:5339)

TO £40,000

CORPORATE

Medium-sized national firm seeks bright 1-3 year qualified corporate lawyer to join its rapidly expanding Corporate Department in London. Ideal candidate will have strong academic credentials and training at a firm with a good reputation for the type of work. Work will include mergers and acquisitions, disposals, joint ventures, IPO's and MBO's. Yellow Book experience will be a distinct advantage. Unusual opportunity to join an exciting and progressive firm with an excellent infrastructure and support systems. (Ref:5610)

TO £40,000

COMPETITION LAW

Leading international practice with already strong competition unit seeks an additional specialist with between 2 and 5 years' relevant experience. With a range of prestigious and challenging work, you will advise high profile institutional and corporate clients on a range of public procurement, competition and other EC law issues. Opportunities exist for international secondment to clients and salaries and benefits are first class. (Ref:5682)

TO £30-£55,000

IN-HOUSE COMMERCIAL BANKING

International bank seeks to recruit a general commercial/commercial lawyer to work as number two to the General Counsel. Work will include advising on commercial contracts, employment, company secretarial and also general banking documentation (leases, licences, options etc.). The position will suit a 2-4 year qualified general commercial/commercial lawyer seeking a broader role in the finance sector. Will join a proactive department which advises financiers at a very early stage. (Ref:5688)

£55,000

ZMB

CITY ASSISTANTS

I.T.

Our client is a niche City firm boasting a high profile (eg sponsor of international IT conferences), expanding IT Dept. Exceptional new opportunity awaits an ambitious assistant with c.1-2 years commercial law experience, wishing to specialise in this field (previous IT experience is not a prerequisite). Exceptional prospects.

to £34,000

COMM PROP

Dramatic increase in instructions received by this c.50 partner firm, compels it to expand the over-stretched Prop. Dept. A quality, wide ranging caseload awaits an outstanding solicitor with 1-3 years PQE seeking a high level of responsibility and client contact.

to £38,000

CONSTRUCTION

This major City construction firm requires a solicitor with 2-4 years relevant ppe from a leading firm, to handle a busy contentious caseload. Technical expertise and an ability to assume a high level of responsibility are sought.

to £48,000

PROJECT FINANCE

Top 5 firm offers a quality of project finance work and level of responsibility second to none. They now require a solicitor with excellent academics and 2-4 yrs relevant PQE from a recognised project finance firm, to join their expanding department. Long term prospects with this firm are unrivalled.

to £50,000

MEDIA / ENT

Displaying immense flair handling this niche specialisation of non-contentious media, film and TV work, this expanding dept seeks a high flying solicitor (1-2 yrs PQE) who wishes to pursue their career with the support of one of the leading City and international players. Superb career prospects.

to £38,000

ENVIRONMENTAL

At the cutting edge of environmental law this major City firm's growing reputation leads it to seek a 1-2 year qualified solicitor with experience in a related field (planning/property/energy) wishing to specialise in this fast evolving sector.

to £35,000

IMMIGRATION

As one of the City's top firms with a substantial overseas presence, specialist expertise in corporate immigration is increasingly sought. There are few acknowledged experts in this field, if you are one, or have such aspirations, this firm is right for you. Solicitors and legal executives considered.

to £50,000

COMM LIT

Often cited as Britain's most innovative law firm our client boasts an expanding national practice, worldwide connections and blue chip clients. A commercial litigator of 5 years' PQE+ with an impeccable academic and professional background seeking the partnership opportunity of a lifetime, is sought by the small, highly focussed Litigation Dept. A unique prospect.

£65,000 - £150,000

COMPET / EC

Our clients' European offices are generating an ever-increasing flow of complex instructions for the dynamic EC/Competition team. A great opportunity awaits an ast with 1-2 yrs PQE.

to £33,000

To discuss any of the above appointments in detail, please contact Jon Garrett, Ben Williams or Simon Eagan on 0171 404 6669 (evenings/weekends: 01252 715302) or write to us in complete confidence, at 6 Warwick Court, London WC1R 5DJ (fax 0171 404 0669).

EAGAN J ANION

UNABLE TO FIND A
PERMANENT POSITION?
CONSIDER THIS...

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Solicitor with heavyweight commercial property experience sought by commercial firm in North East. Candidates should ideally have between 3-10 years' ppe. Immediate start. Ref: 16300

CORPORATE/COMMERCIAL

International firm seeks Solicitor with minimum 2 years' ppe for 3 month contract to assist with general corporate/commercial work in their London office. Candidates should have strong commercial background. Ref: 24482

DEFENDANT MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE

2-5 year qualified Solicitor with up-to-date defendant medical negligence experience, needed in Manchester office of London based firm. Ref: 24521

CCT

Local Authority, based in Home Counties, requires a Solicitor with 3-5 years' ppe. Recent experience in drafting contract documentation for compulsory competitive tendering essential. Immediate start for 2 year contract. Ref: 24594

DOMESTIC CONVEYANCING

Leading commercial firm, based in the North West, is currently looking for a residential conveyancer to help ease the workload. Start as soon as possible for six months. Ref: 24535

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Leading City firm, with international client base, requires a 2-6 year qualified commercial property lawyer to start as soon as possible for a six month contract. Ref: 19260

COMMERCIAL

Solicitor/Barrister, with 2-5 years' experience in a commercial environment sought by major engineering group. Position would be based in Leicestershire. Drafting and negotiating skills essential. Ref: 19140

For further information about these and other vacancies please call Nicky Rutherford-Jones or Emma Hopkiss on 0171 405 6662 (0171 330 0682 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Special Projects Lawyers, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394.

36 ESSEX STREET
LONDON WC2R 3AS

Chambers is pleased to announce that, as from 1 January 1996, Michael Lawson Q.C. will become Head of Chambers in succession to Michael Hill Q.C.

The Members of Chambers are as follows:

Michael Hill Q.C.
Michael Austin-Smith Q.C.
Susan Edwards Q.C.
Bernard Phelvin
Charles Miskin
Michael Wood
The Hon. Justin Wigoder
Roderick James
Daniel Janner
Joanna Glynn
Rupert Pardo
Alan Kent
Wayne Cranston-Morris
Heather Norton
Alison Blood
Isobel Ascherson
Mark Fenhalls

Nicholas Purnell Q.C.
Michael Lawson Q.C.
Stuart Lawson Rogers Q.C.
The Hon. Charles Byers
James Richardson
Brendan Finucane
Simon Davis
Michael Bowes
Graham Cooke
Jane Calnan
Andrew Carnes
Johannah Curtis
Simon Waley
William Carter
Nicholas Papadopoulos
Simon Medland
Andrew Hurst

Door Tenants Ian Goldworthy Q.C.

Practice Manager
Nicholas Hopgood

Alison Jones.

Chambers Manager
David Burt

DEVELOPMENT SOLICITOR

Wilson Bowden plc is the parent company of David Wilson Homes, one of the UK's leading housebuilders and Wilson Bowden Properties, the commercial property division.

As part of the planned progression of an in-house Legal Department, we are now seeking to recruit an additional Solicitor to assist in the provision of legal advice in all aspects of residential and commercial property development.

The successful candidate will be expected to demonstrate broad experience in development work and have the ability to perform effectively alongside in-house professionals from all disciplines and levels within the Group. He/she will therefore be commercially minded and have an entrepreneurial flair in contributing to development situations.

This is a key position within the Company and the selected candidate will be offered an attractive salary, company car and other benefits commensurate with a progressive employer.

Please write in the first instance giving details of education, experience to date and current salary to:

Mr D E Tomlinson
Comp Personnel Director
Wilson Bowden plc
Wilson Bowden House
Leicester Road
Ibstock
Leicester LE67 6WB

WILSON
Bowden plc

COMMERCIAL LAWYER

UK law firm with international client base, urgently seeks a Commercial Solicitor with 3-5 years PQE to join small but expanding City office. The work, requiring expertise in all aspects of company/commercial law as well as the Financial Services Act 1986, will involve advising UK and EC clients and particularly, Canadian and US clients on UK/EC matters.

Applicants must:
• be qualified in England and Wales
• be qualified in Canada, preferably Ontario
• have experience in / knowledge of US law and preferably a US qualification
Competitive salary and working conditions.
Please Reply to Box No 0594
c/o Times Newspapers, P.O. Box 3553, Virginia St, London E1 9GA

DIRECTOR OF LEGAL DEVELOPMENT

THE POSITION

The Director of Legal Development will be responsible for the professional development of the firm and its lawyers and will be expected to offer direction and leadership in the areas of training and education, research, know how, library and information services.

The Director will work closely with the firm's other Directors of Finance, IT and Practice Development and the firm's Executive Committee. The Director will need to divide his/her time between the firm's major offices in Leeds, London, Manchester and Bradford but the choice of primary location could depend on the Director's own circumstances and proposals.

THE REQUIREMENTS

A lawyer (though not necessarily qualified as a solicitor), the candidate must also be an excellent manager. We require a person with first class communication skills - both written and oral - and a degree of computer literacy. The ability to deal with people at all levels through the firm is vital but, in particular, the candidate will be sufficiently experienced to work at executive level and win the confidence of the partnership. We are looking for a dynamic individual who is full of ideas and who is not afraid to innovate to ensure that Hammond Suddards provides its lawyers with a high calibre service appropriate to a major, national and international practice.

THE REWARDS

We are able to offer a salary commensurate with this level of responsibility and a chance to share in the continuing growth of one of the country's most successful and dynamic national law practices.

To apply, please write in strictest confidence to:
Alan Bottomley, Senior Partner,
Hammond Suddards, 2 Park Lane,
Leeds LS3 1ES.

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SOLICITORS

SOLICITOR



WINCKWORTH
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Solicitors

Require a full or part-time solicitor to provide a managed legal service for Warden Housing Association.

This post will suit someone who would enjoy the satisfaction of close involvement with a client, while being part of a leading law firm in the housing field.

You will be based at the Association's head office in Ruislip. Your job will be to provide general advice to the Association's officers, routine leasehold conveyancing and estate management advice, and be responsible for and where appropriate conduct housing management litigation.

You will be responsible for making a success of this new venture.

Hours are flexible, although we estimate that at least twenty five hours a week would generally be required.

If you think your experience would suit you for this post please apply in writing with your CV to:

Keith Jenkins
Winckworth & Pemberton
Incorporating Shawwood & Co
35 Great Peter Street
Westminster
London SW1P 3LR

Winckworth & Pemberton is an equal opportunities employer.

HEAD OF FINANCE
COST ACCOUNTANT - MEDIA RESOURCES

The two vacancies have arisen as a result of the forthcoming move of Scripture Union's National Office from London to Blatchley at the beginning of December. The job holders will provide an efficient and effective Finance function for the movement's General Fund and Media Resources divisions.

Applicants will be qualified or part qualified and will have other relevant experience depending on the position applied for. In addition, they will be Christians in sympathy with the aims of Scripture Union.

For further details and an application form please contact: Human Resources Department, Scripture Union, 130 City Road, London EC1V 2NL. Tel: 0171 782 0013.

The Closing Date is 3 November 1995.

Scripture Union strives to be an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Scripture
Union

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

FAX:
0171 782 7899

Time to join a winning team

Norton Rose is a leading City of London and international law firm dedicated to providing the highest standards of service to its clients. Continuing expansion has created excellent career development opportunities for able and ambitious business lawyers in our London office. We are looking for top quality lawyers with at least 2-4 years post-qualification experience to expand our teams in the following areas:

Corporate Finance Lawyers

Our Corporate Finance Group is consistently busy with high quality transactions. We are looking for enthusiastic, highly motivated team players to handle responsibility in a fast moving, stimulating environment. These business-oriented lawyers will join teams handling mergers and acquisitions, listings and underwritings, cross-border deals and international securities issues.

Project Finance Lawyers

Our Project Finance team is a recognised market leader with an extensive domestic and international client base. Our team has expanded rapidly and we are looking to strengthen it further with ambitious lawyers who have first-class legal and analytical skills and enjoy the challenge of working under pressure. Previous experience is an advantage but not essential.

Acquisition/Structured Finance Lawyers

A continuing flow of major transactions has kept our Acquisition/Structured Finance team extremely busy. We are looking for candidates with experience in either or both of these areas, with technical ability and a practical approach to the solution of issues. The successful candidates will be able to work well under pressure within a team of equally highly motivated people and are likely to come from firms with proven track records in these areas.



Successful candidates will receive a top City salary with excellent training and career prospects in areas which we have identified for continued growth. If you would like to join a dynamic firm and work on complex and challenging international transactions, write in confidence with CV by Friday 3 November 1995 to:

Celia Staples, Head of Personnel

Norton Rose
Solicitors

Kempson House, Camomile Street, London EC3A 7AN
Telephone: +44 (0) 171-283 6000

LONDON HONG KONG BRUSSELS PARIS SINGAPORE BAHRAIN PIRAEUS PRAGUE MOSCOW

A member of the Norton Rose M5 Group of independent legal practices

LEGAL COUNSEL N.EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA Software Industry

c.£60,000 + bonus + car

Informix is a fast expanding, profitable U.S. software company and wishes to recruit a Legal Counsel to support its operations in the U.K., Ireland, Holland, Belgium, Scandinavia, the Middle East and Africa. Based to the west of London, the successful candidate will provide legal support in sales transactions, negotiate and administer software licensing, distribution and support contracts and play an active role in various corporate, labour and intellectual property matters.

Candidates must be qualified solicitors with at least 5 years' experience of negotiating and drafting contracts in an international corporate environment. They must have dealt with labour and intellectual property issues and have had previous involvement with the sales function. A pragmatic, positive and commercially orientated approach will be required to succeed in this fast-moving environment. First class negotiation skills and the highest levels of integrity are assumed. Previous management experience and some P.C. literacy would be preferred.

A salary of around £60,000 is envisaged, together with a comprehensive benefits package that includes a performance bonus and fully expensed company car.

Interested individuals are invited to send a c.v. in strict confidence to our advising consultant, David Abbott at David Abbott and Partners, 65, High Street, Marlow, Bucks. SL7 1AB or fax it to him on 01628 486221 if this is more convenient. Please provide a daytime telephone number.

INFORMIX

VARIED OPPORTUNITIES

MARKETING - CHAMBERS

Entrepreneurial set of Chambers seeks marketing expertise to develop practice and raise profile. The ideal candidate will either already be in a set of chambers undertaking the same role, a solicitor with some marketing experience or will come from a pure marketing background. This is an excellent opportunity to play a pivotal role. Ref: T24544

SHIPPING

Notable shipping practice seeks capable practitioner circa three years plus qualified to handle existing catalogue of high calibre shipping work. Good working environment and excellent reputation will enhance your enjoyment of work and prospects. Must be marketing and practice development orientated. Ref: T13465

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Leading City firm with power-house reputation in its commercial property work requires lawyer with between 2 and 3 years' experience. Transactions will include landlord and tenant, development, secured lending and management of institutional portfolios. Immediate responsibility in existing transactions in strong team. Ref: T6594

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Non-contentious lawyer required to join IP department of premier City practice. You will handle broad range of IP matters both "hard" and "soft" with strong team situated in corporate department. Strong academic track record and 4-5 years' post-qualification. This sector enjoys excellent reputation. Ref: T24532

CONSTRUCTION

Leading construction firm seeks 18 months' to 4 years' post-qualification lawyer. You will participate in range of contentious and non-contentious matters, domestic and international in scope. Some insurance experience advantageous. Robust personality and ability to work without supervision essential. Excellent salary and strong prospects. Ref: T23591

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Deborah Dalgleish, Greg Abrahams or June Merritt (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6862 (0181-620 6559 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglas Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394. E-mail: deborah@qdrecruitment.co.uk

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TRUST AND PRIVATE CLIENT ATTORNEY

Bermuda Tax-free salary

Conyers, Dill & Pearman is a leading Bermuda-based law firm with offices in Hong Kong, British Virgin Islands and Guernsey. We undertake important and interesting commercial work for international clients from many countries, including major corporations in a wide range of industries.

A Trust and Private Client Attorney with considerable experience in Trust Law and a good working knowledge of company law principles is needed to assist in the busy area of our trust practice. Working with the partners in the Trust Department, you will advise the firm's licensed trust company on day-to-day legal issues relating to trustees' duties and obligations owed to beneficiaries and third parties, as well as review contracts and advise on trust administration generally. In addition, you will be involved in drafting trust

deeds and other related legal documentation which may involve co-ordination of company law aspects.

You will need to demonstrate at least five years' prior experience in advising trust companies. Good experience and a knowledge in the area of international Trust and Estate Planning must be allied to the personal attributes necessary to work successfully with private clients.

An initial 3-year contract will be offered and an attractive tax-free salary will be complemented by a range of benefits including health and other insurances.

Initially, please send full cv which will be forwarded unopened to Conyers, Dill & Pearman. Write to Ref: R24597, PA Advertising Limited, Number Two Caxton Street, London SW1H 0QE. Closing date 1st November, 1995.

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COMMERCIAL LITIGATION - 3-4 PCE 9/95 sought by leading East Firm. Qualified, energetic, hard working, driven & ambitious (A&P) Day: 01992 019706 Fax: 01992 019706

EMPLOYMENT LITIGATION - 1-4 PCE 9/95 sought by leading East Firm. Qualified, energetic, hard working, driven & ambitious (A&P) Day: 01992 019706 Fax: 01992 019706

HIGH WYCOMBE, SUCKS - LITIGATION We have a vacancy for a solicitor with a wide knowledge of and expertise in employment law and particularly in relation to redundancy and unfair dismissal. The successful candidate will have three years' post-qualification experience in this type of work. Salary circa £28,000 depending on experience. This is a post with permanent prospects for the right candidate. Please send your cv to: Mr. J. Suck, High Wycombe, Bucks. (A&P) Day: 01494 682327 Fax: 01494 682327

PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY - SOUTH - Major phone needs solicitor for a role in growing established department. Excellent career and remuneration prospects. (A&P) Day: 01747 828237

PRIVATE CLIENTS - M4 - Substantive practice seeks senior solicitor for a role in growing established department. Excellent career and remuneration prospects. (A&P) Day: 01747 828237

SMALL BUSY FIRM PRACTICE - 3-4 PCE 9/95 sought by leading East Firm. Qualified, energetic, hard working, driven & ambitious (A&P) Day: 01992 019706 Fax: 01992 019706

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Chambers are also pleased to announce that the following have accepted invitations to join chambers:
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Further enquiries should be directed to Christopher Willans, The Senior Clerk, 2 Temple Gardens, Temple, London, EC4Y 9AY. Telephone 0171 583 6041 Facsimile 0171 583 2094. LIX LON080

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McAllister holds key to progress in Europe

By DAVID MILLER

THERE is a world of difference between theory and practice. Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, needs a combination of the two if he is to steer his club to success in this season's Uefa Cup and himself into the Football Association's chair as director of coaching. He is on a shortlist for this appointment, which is to be made before the end of the season.

Wilkinson is an articulate and intelligent coach, winning the league championship in 1992, yet his tactics generally have tended to be too functional for the taste of some. The evidence of this may well be seen tonight when Leeds meet Philips of Eindhoven — better known under their former name, PSV Eindhoven — in

the second round, first leg at Elland Road. How adventurous will Leeds, beaten at home by an unusually stylish Arsenal at the weekend, now be against an Eindhoven team lacking Ronaldo, their Brazilian marksman?

The theory of a winning football style, which Wilkinson would have to instil in coaches throughout England, and the winning of matches are separated by imponderables — that is, players. A club manager, attempting to win trophies and at the same time keep his job under the scrutiny of often impatient and ignorant directors, is more often confounded by players than by football.

Yesterday, Wilkinson was uncertain about the availability of his main playmaker, Gary McAllister, who injured an ankle in the match between Scotland and Sweden in Stockholm last week, an incident that understandably irritated the Leeds manager. Initially, Wilkinson estimated that McAllister would be out of action for two to three weeks, but McAllister's capacity for recovery is such that he may play tonight. "Knowing him, he has a chance," Wilkinson said yesterday.

Without McAllister's guile, Leeds were well beaten by an Arsenal team finding peak form. "If he had been at his best and there against Arsenal, he would have been an asset," Wilkinson said, stating the obvious. "Nobody likes being without their best players."

Referring to PSV's loss of Ronaldo, the 19-year-old valued at £4 million who scored 35 goals in his first European season but injured a knee in Brazil's match against Uruguay last week — in which he scored both goals — Wilkinson cautiously said that teams can play well without their best players. Presumably, that could and should also be true of Leeds. It is expected that McAllister will start the game and Ronaldo's absence should allow Leeds to go into the second leg with at least a moderate lead.

Much will depend on Tony Yeboah, Leeds's agile attacker, and simultaneously on the extent to which he is supported from midfield. There is additionally a slight doubt about both Gary Speed, in midfield, and Brian Deane in attack. The absence of the Welshman, Speed, would undermine Leeds's chances almost as much as that of McAllister, for the Welshman is a penetrating runner.

PSV are also in form and won comfortably at the weekend, beating RKC Waalwijk 4-0 in Rotterdam. Ronaldo's place is expected to be taken by Eijkelkamp, a lofty centre forward who scored twice on Saturday and is of the traditional English style of central striker. "We're accustomed to dealing with people like that," Wilkinson said.



Klinsmann, goalscorer and thoroughbred, may be in for a tougher evening than he expects against Raith

Nicholl nurtures impossible dream

Sitting at the back of the stand watching his next Uefa Cup opponents, Jürgen Klinsmann, Jean-Pierre Papin and all, Jimmy Nicholl's imagination was working overtime. His team, Raith Rovers, had just been beaten 3-0 by Aberdeen — "and it could have been six" — yet there he was fancying his chances against Bayern Munich, one of the biggest, richest, clubs in Europe.

"It was weird," Nicholl said, "but I thought, 'If I play him here and him there, I can see us scoring against this lot.' Ever the optimist, Nicholl, but with due reason. The Raith manager has seen football from most angles during his long career, looking down with Manchester United and Rangers, looking up with Northern Ireland and Raith, and there is little doubt which of his well of memories he has been drawing inspiration from this week.

"I've not bamboozled them with stories of how United played Juventus or how we



Andrew Longmore talks to a manager hoping to prove that every underdog has its day

beat Porto 5-2 at Old Trafford. They don't want to know. I tell them about playing Spain in the World Cup on a Friday night in Valencia and winning 1-0 with ten men, or beating Germany in Belfast. But possibly not how he and Pat Jennings had a lick of whisky before kick-off.

Like so many of his countrymen, Nicholl is a gifted raconteur and his mine of the Northern Irish back four passing the ball casually, pretending to be classy internationals ("inside of the foot" while Germany waited patiently in their own half is a gem, but not even he could have told a tale as tall as the one Rovers are now spinning through Scottish hill and European dale. When Nicholl took over in 1990, Kirkcaldy, home of

Raith Rovers, was known for making linoleum, their football club for being walked all over. Their first venture into Europe ended in shipwreck, but Nicholl persuaded the club to go full-time, doubtless with some blarney about having better luck on their travels next time, with the result that the club coffers have swelled almost as much as local chests.

"I'm pleased for the players," Nicholl said. "Particularly players like David Sinclair and Sean Dennis, who have been with the club a long time. The only problem with Sinclair is that we win a couple of games and he starts to think he's Franz Beckenbauer. I have to remind him a few years ago he was up a ladder for a living." Or, in the case of Dennis, square-jawed captain

of the Rovers, down a mine in Longgannock. The mine closed down just as Raith went full-time, but legend has it — and Klinsmann will certainly find out by the end of tonight — Dennis's tackles are not always as well-timed. He reckoned Klinsmann had probably never been down a mine. "Spoil his blond hair."

Raith's chances of survival rest on that sort of mean spirit being multiplied by 11 and then thrust down the throats of the Bayern side, who have that priceless disadvantage of being expected to win. Complacency, lack of fibre — these are the currency of upset against the million-dollar men.

The only shame is that Easter Road, home of Hibernian, not Raith's outdated ground at Spark's Park, will host the biggest occasion in the club's history. "By 8pm tonight, we could be the talk of Europe," Nicholl mused. "How could that be?" For once, even he was stumped for an answer.

Liverpool tread warily on arrival in Denmark

FROM PETER BALL IN COPENHAGEN

THERE was fog hanging around the airport and rain in the centre of the city, but after last month's long haul to Vladikavkaz, the journey yesterday to Copenhagen was relatively straightforward for Liverpool. In theory, Brondby should also provide easier opposition in tonight's Uefa Cup first leg, the team, the leaders of the Russian league offered in the previous round.

However, Liverpool built their considerable success in Europe over the years on never underestimating the opposition and Roy Evans, their manager, was predictably cautious when he and his team arrived in Denmark yesterday afternoon.

"I wouldn't say it will be easier than Vladikavkaz," he said. "Brondby are seeded sixth, they've got a great record in European competition and we will take it very seriously. It will be a different game to Vladikavkaz, that's for sure."

Brondby are having a mediocre season domestically, but their record in Europe demands respect. A year ago, they were slightly unlucky to lose to Arsenal over the two legs in the Cup Winners' Cup and, in Denmark in particular, few teams have found them easy opposition. Their decision to move the game from their 10,000-capacity home ground into Copenhagen may not help their cause, however, with Liverpool's contingent of Scandinavian supporters expected to provide a large proportion of an anticipated 40,000 crowd in the national stadium.

Evans's main problem concerns his strikers. First, he faces the decision whether to stick to the familiar formation and play two men up front, or to revert to the system of only one forward that paid rich dividends in Russia. Against Brondby, he seems more likely to play two, but then he will have to choose between Stan Collymore, his £8.5 million signing, and his captain, Ian Rush, as a partner to Robbie Fowler.

Rush has been linked with several clubs recently, but he came off the bench in place of Collymore against Coventry City on Saturday and came close to claiming a winner. His experience may count in his favour.

Forest press on with challenge to Roux's rare vintage

FROM RUSSELL KEMPSON IN AUVERGNE

HERE in Chablis country, it would be all too easy for Nottingham Forest to find themselves lulled into dreamland. Hills roll gently over Burgundy and the River Yonne winds its way past the architectural magnificence of St Stephen's Cathedral.

Yet Roux should not be fooled when they play their Uefa Cup second round, first leg match at the Stade de l'Abbe Deschamps here this evening. Auvergne may provide an aesthetic diversion from the rigours of the FA Cup Premiership but it also possesses a football team of rich quality.

Guy Roux, one of Europe's most respected coaches, guided them to fourth place in the French league last season and a place in the European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-finals, in which they were edged out by Arsenal. They lie third in the league after a 2-1 win against Nice at the weekend.

Frank Clark, the Forest manager, is well aware of the threat but will boldly resist any temptation to simply shut up shop, perhaps score on an isolated breakaway and then pin everything on the return leg at the City Ground. Though it is a typical play of many away sides in European competition, Clark will adopt a more adventurous approach.

"We will try to play like we do in England," he said. "We will set out to be solid — we don't want to concede anything early on — but we must also make sure that we don't become too negative. It's all about getting the right balance."

Forest gleaned much from their first-round tie against Malmö FF, in which they lost 2-1 in Sweden but progressed courtesy of a 1-0 win at home and the away-goals rule. "We will need to play better than we did in Malmö, but I think we've learnt a lot from that," Clark said.

With Kevin Campbell again absent because of recurring back trouble, Jason Lee, 24, retains his role alongside Bryan Roy up front.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): M. Coates; D. Lyle, C. Cooper, S. Christie, S. Pearce; S. Shaw, S. Gerrard, C. Barrie, W. Webster; B. Roy, J. Lee.

AUVERGNE (4-4-2): J. Chabrier, C. Cook, L. Bino, A. Giron, F. Paschouy, C. Remy, F. Simeoni, V. Vial, S. Lemaire, C. Girard, M. Sali, A. Bouchet, P. Velez, C. Girard, L. Lestienne.



Wilkinson: astute

the second round, first leg at Elland Road. How adventurous will Leeds, beaten at home by an unusually stylish Arsenal at the weekend, now be against an Eindhoven team lacking Ronaldo, their Brazilian marksman?

The theory of a winning football style, which Wilkinson would have to instil in coaches throughout England, and the winning of matches are separated by imponderables — that is, players. A club manager, attempting to win trophies and at the same time keep his job under the scrutiny of often impatient and ignorant directors, is more often confounded by players than by football.

Yesterday, Wilkinson was uncertain about the availability of his main playmaker, Gary McAllister, who injured an ankle in the match between Scotland and Sweden in Stockholm last week, an incident that understandably irritated the Leeds manager. Initially, Wilkinson estimated that McAllister would be out of action for two to three weeks, but McAllister's capacity for recovery is such that he may play tonight. "Knowing him, he has a chance," Wilkinson said yesterday.

Without McAllister's guile, Leeds were well beaten by an Arsenal team finding peak form. "If he had been at his best and there against Arsenal, he would have been an asset," Wilkinson said, stating the obvious. "Nobody likes being without their best players."

Referring to PSV's loss of Ronaldo, the 19-year-old valued at £4 million who scored 35 goals in his first European season but injured a knee in Brazil's match against Uruguay last week — in which he scored both goals — Wilkinson cautiously said that teams can play well without their best players. Presumably, that could and should also be true of Leeds. It is expected that McAllister will start the game and Ronaldo's absence should allow Leeds to go into the second leg with at least a moderate lead.

Much will depend on Tony Yeboah, Leeds's agile attacker, and simultaneously on the extent to which he is supported from midfield. There is additionally a slight doubt about both Gary Speed, in midfield, and Brian Deane in attack. The absence of the Welshman, Speed, would undermine Leeds's chances almost as much as that of McAllister, for the Welshman is a penetrating runner.

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FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

CHICAGO: Marathon: Men: 1, E. Martin (GB) 2:11:11; 2, S. Swenson (USA) 2:11:24; 3, D. Cusack (Ire) 2:12:05; 4, H. Ochi (Ken) 2:12:25; 5, L. Hayes (Ken) 2:12:51; 6, J. Herrera (Mex) 2:13:18; 7, C. Gosselin (Can) 2:13:41; 8, M. Waples (USA) 2:13:42; 9, D. Barcock (Ken) 2:13:46; 10, G. Karthi (Ind) 2:13:50; 11, M. Sutton (GB) 2:13:53.

BADMINTON

OSAKA: Danish Open: Men: P. E. Hoyer-Larsen (Den) 15-11, 15-11; 2, H. Hoyer-Larsen (Den) 15-11, 15-11; 3, H. Hoyer-Larsen (Den) 15-11, 15-11; 4, H. Hoyer-Larsen (Den) 15-11, 15-11; 5, H. Hoyer-Larsen (Den) 15-11, 15-11; 6, H. Hoyer-Larsen (Den) 15-11, 15-11; 7, H. Hoyer-Larsen (Den) 15-11, 15-11; 8, H. Hoyer-Larsen (Den) 15-11, 15-11; 9, H. Hoyer-Larsen (Den) 15-11, 15-11; 10, H. Hoyer-Larsen (Den) 15-11, 15-11; 11, H. Hoyer-Larsen (Den) 15-11, 15-11; 12, H. Hoyer-Larsen (Den) 15-11, 15-11; 13, H. Hoyer-Larsen (Den) 15-11, 15-11; 14, H. Hoyer-Larsen (Den) 15-11, 15-11; 15, H. Hoyer-Larsen (Den) 15-11, 15-11; 16, H. Hoyer-Larsen (Den) 15-11, 15-11; 17, H. Hoyer-Larsen (Den) 15-11, 15-11; 18, H. Hoyer-Larsen (Den) 15-11, 15-11; 19, H. Hoyer-Larsen (Den) 15-11, 15-11; 20, H. Hoyer-Larsen (Den) 15-11, 15-11; 21, H. Hoyer-Larsen (Den) 15-11, 15-11; 22, H. Hoyer-Larsen (Den) 15-11, 15-11; 23, H. Hoyer-Larsen (Den) 15-11, 15-11; 24, H. Hoyer-Larsen (Den) 15-11, 15-11; 25, H. 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Graf to bring down Brighton curtain

Miami strike sour note without injured Marino

Fiji out to prove World Cup point

But was it a real corker?

the 1990s, the number of people in the United States who are 65 years of age or older is projected to increase from 20 million to 30 million, and the number of people 75 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10 million to 15 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1997).

RACING 43

NEW RECRUIT HELPS
TO BOLSTER THE
QUEEN OF AINTREE

SPORT

TUESDAY OCTOBER 17 1995

TENNIS 46

GRAF TO BRING
DOWN CURTAIN
ON BRIGHTON

Former world super-middleweight champion vows never to return to the ring

Eubank says goodbye to the circus

By SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

IT CAN be said with unusual certainty that the eccentric cabaret of Chris Eubank will never be seen in the boxing ring again: his much-anticipated third bout with Nigel Benn will never happen. Eubank retired from the ring yesterday and made it clear that he does not intend to follow in the footsteps of other former world champions and make even one comeback.

He intends to go into business, where he believes he will make as much money, if not more than he made in the ring in a career that spanned ten years. Eubank, 29, told journalists at his gym in Hove that the second defeat by Steve Collins and the chance to go into business helped him to make up his mind to leave the sport that he loves to hate.

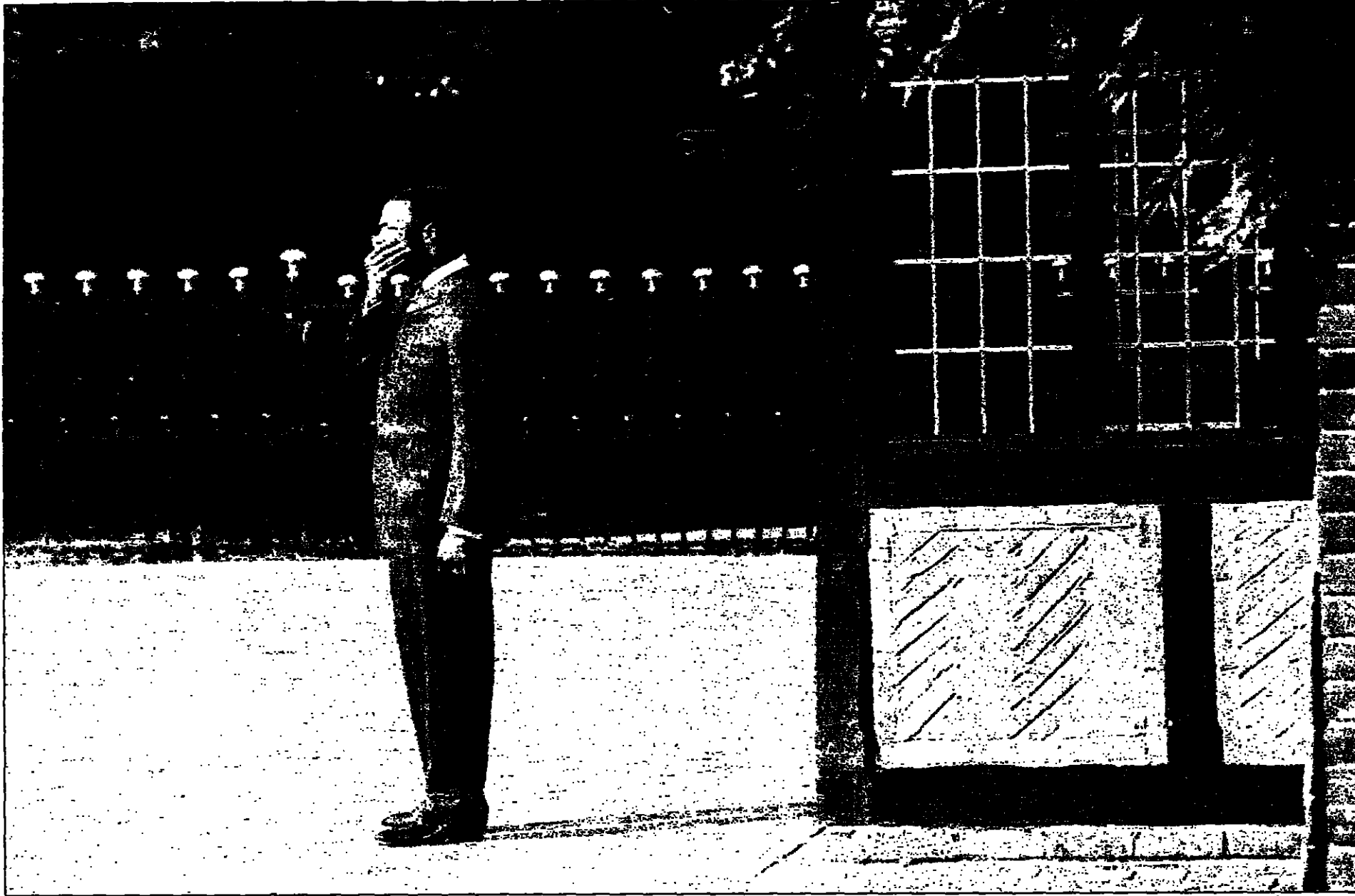
He said it was unlikely that he would be seen again in boxing circles unless it was as a spectator at a contest as intriguing as one between Roy Jones and Benn. He emphasised that the timing of his decision had nothing to do with the tragic death of James Murray, after a bout in Glasgow last Friday night. Before the press conference, he asked everyone to stand in a minute's silence for Murray.

Eubank said: "The result of my recent contest with Collins has caused me to look at the various options now available to me and to seek the advice of my friends and advisors. My almost continuous fight schedule, particularly for the Sky contract, and the difficulties I've had making the weight have all taken their toll and I really need a long rest."

"My opinions about boxing have been made known on numerous occasions and, frankly, a move to light-heavyweight does not appeal to me. I have therefore decided to retire now at the moment of the pinnacle of my career."

"While I would have liked to have retired as a world champion, I hope I'll be remembered as a boxer who helped to change the face of boxing."

"I have made a good living from the sport and comments concerning my spending habits have always featured in



Eubank, pictured outside his home in East Sussex yesterday, where he announced his retirement from professional boxing. Photograph: Adrian Brooks

anything written about me. But I've also invested wisely. I intend to become a business man and a good friend and myself have formed a joint venture company to consider investment opportunities."

Eubank and his partner, Rory McCarthy, are to start a fashion house called Show Offs Limited.

Eubank denied that the words "long rest" implied that he might make a comeback. "I

have made the right decision," he said. "I never intended to come back. It would have been hard to retire if I didn't have anything to fall back on, but I have. So it's the correct business move for me to make."

"I realise there's life after boxing, especially with the public persona that I have cultivated outside the ring. My main aim has always been, first and foremost, don't get hurt, and, secondly, make money. That's what I have done."

Eubank is believed to have made well over £10 million from 47 contests, thanks to the efforts of his promoter, Barry Hearn. The former World

Boxing Organisation super-middleweight champion, who was unbeaten for nine years, will be remembered for his flamboyant entrances to the strains of *Simply the Best*, his famous vault over the ropes, his Mr Universe poses and for his two epic battles with Benn and Michael Watson.

Last year, he embarked on a £6.5 million eight-bout world tour for Sky, which meant that he had to box every six weeks. Even though most of the opponents were not of the highest qualities, it was still a magnificent effort to complete the course. But he was unable to finish undefeated, losing twice to Collins.

It was a pity that, after the second and tragic bout with Watson, Eubank never boxed for the full three minutes of any round in the remaining 18 contests of his career. Had he taken his training as seriously as he took his posing in and out of the ring, striding about in his Lord Charles monocle and Prince Charles riding breeches, he might have become one of the great middleweights of the world.

His victories over Benn, in 1990, and Watson, in 1991, were enough to establish him as one of Britain's great middleweight boxers. Given that Benn is today regarded as the second best middleweight in

the world, Eubank's achievement in their first meeting can be seen as a very impressive one.

If Eubank had been able to maintain the standards he set in the Benn and Watson bouts, he might have been ranked above Jones, accepted as the world No.1, today. But he preferred to take on second-raters and get through bouts doing as little as he could get away with. "I'm not a boxer but an entertainer," he used to say. It is therefore not surprising that he came close to defeat on a number of occasions.

When he did lose to Collins for the second time, Eubank's trainer, Ronnie Davies, hoped

he would move up to light-heavyweight. "If people could have seen him in the gym at that weight they would have seen he was absolutely brilliant," Davies said. "I have no doubt that he would have won the world title."

But Eubank, realising he could no longer march to the tune of *Simply the Best*, did not want to risk moving up a weight and taking a cut in pay. He received £800,000 a bout for his series with Sky but promoters were not prepared to offer more than a quarter of that for contests against top light-heavyweights.

Magnus Linklater, page 17

Fatality may lead to random checks on weight

By JOHN GOODBODY

SPURRED by the death of James Murray after a British heavyweight boxing championship contest in Glasgow on Friday, the sport's authorities are to consider introducing random weight checks to try to prevent further fatalities. As the Government yesterday turned down demands from MPs for an inquiry by a Royal Commission, the call for the sport to be banned escalated with the news from Manila that a junior-flyweight boxer, Restituto Espinella, from the Philippines, had died of brain haemorrhage after a ten-round non-title bout.

However, the British Boxing Board of Control (BBBC) promised that it would carry out any immediate measures to improve safety that its medical advisers recommended while the board works on new safety guidelines.

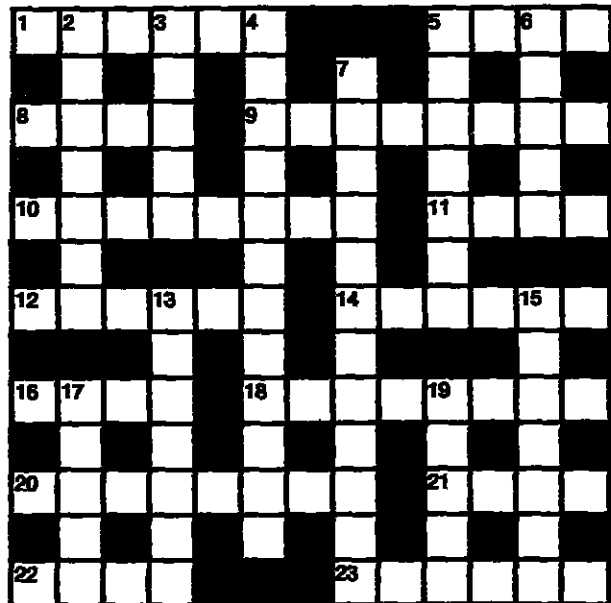
These could include weight checks on boxers, many of whom weaken themselves by intensive weight loss before a contest. Dr Adrian Whittison, the BBBC chief medical officer, said that safety measures should not only depend on doctors, but also be the responsibility of the promoters, managers, trainers and the boxers themselves. He pointed out that there had not been recent fatalities among heavyweights, although they hit harder than those boxing at lighter weights.

There is a case for random checks to watch out for people who are losing too much bodyweight," Whittison said. He emphasised that his comments did not refer specifically to Murray.

Although diuretic drugs are banned in all combat sports, many boxers use sauna baths and rigorous dieting to get beneath a weight limit. As Dr Thomas Stuttaford pointed out in *The Times* yesterday: "The subsequent dehydration makes the brain's fit in the skull less perfect: the shrunken brain is then able to splash around in the bony box of the skull more easily and the contre-coup is more damaging."

The reasons for the death of Murray, who collapsed in the twelfth round of his bout with Drew Docherty on Friday, have yet to be disclosed and may not be associated with any weight loss.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 602

ACROSS

- 1 Treeless grass, panda food (6)
5 Pretend; make fun of (4)
8 Haul; something that slows (4)
9 Troilus's lover (8)
10 Result of division (8)
11 Conclusion of prayer (4)
12 Person with dependency (6)
14 Overwhelm (6)
16 Be angry; noxious gas (4)
18 In chaos, disorder (8)
20 Ruining; keen (for a fight) (8)
21 Fruit; desirable job (4)

DOWN

- 2 Leg joint (4)
3 Omit; pass over (6)
2 (Ship) stuck on the bottom (7)
3 To father (5)
4 Place for opera-house musicians (9,3)
5 Small wild US horse (7)
6 Get by begging (5)
7 Become able to handle (3,3,2)
13 Lisi individually (7)
15 Free time (7)
17 Remove fastener (from) (5)
19 Escapes; pickled bud (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 601

ACROSS: 7 Son et lumière 9 Explode 10 Rider 11 Cash 12 Decision 15 Marriage 17 Shot 19 Diver 21 Ophelia 22 Walk the plank

DOWN: 1 Composer 2 Below 3 Sleeve 4 Embroid 5 Bead 6 Wear and tear 8 Reach-me-down 13 Inhaling 14 Migrate 16 Grovel 18 Whole 20 Vile

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THE TIMES TUESDAY OCTOBER 17, 1995

Arrests of Pakistani officers highlight fight to control army

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

THE arrest of 36 Pakistani army officers on charges of plotting an Islamic revolution exposes an ideological battle for control of the armed forces, which have ruled Pakistan for more than half its 48-year life. The outcome will affect the country's political, economic and strategic direction.

Militant Islamic parties condemned the arrests and demanded an explanation from Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister, who is abroad. The move demonstrates the ascendancy of professional soldiers, headed by General Abdul Waheed Kakar, the army chief, over ideologues in the military.

The leader of the alleged plot, said to be Major General Zahidul Islam Akbar, who was expelled from India seven years ago when, as a brigadier, he was military attaché at the Pakistani Embassy. He allegedly acquired sensitive security documents from an Indian contact and was beaten up by Indian intelligence officers. He returned home a national hero.

The United States doubted gave its private approval to this politically sensitive move by Miss Bhutto, whose liberal policies and friendship with the West are resented by Islamic hardliners in the military. The army contains a powerful minority of senior officers who regard themselves as protectors of the legacy of General Zia ul-Haq, the late dictator, who



Bhutto has US support

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

Indian film star to be freed

SANJAY DUTT, India's leading film star, is to be freed from prison on bail under an order issued by the Supreme Court yesterday. His 15-month detention has exposed the seething undercurrent of Indian justice, which can be manipulated by powerful politicians on money or trumped up evidence.

Mr Dutt, 36, is accused of involvement in the Bombay blasts that destroyed several buildings in Bombay in

March 1993, including the Stock Exchange and the Air India office. Nobody seriously believed he played an important role in the bombings, if any at all, and others held on similar charges have been released on bail or had their charges dropped. The principal charge against Mr Dutt was possession of a firearm.

The film star has a Muslim mother, making him an object of suspicion among fanatical

Hindus who have come to power in Maharashtra state. The family has upset religious zealots by helping to protect Muslims from riots led by Hindu extremists. Mr Dutt's father, Sunil, a former film star and now an MP for the governing Congress party, has longstanding political and personal enemies and his son's detention may have been an act of spite. He will be released today or tomorrow.



An Iraqi fires his Kalashnikov to hail Saddam's 99.9 per cent referendum victory

Iraq's manipulated poll falls flat in Arab world

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

IRAQ'S claim of a staggering 99.99 per cent endorsement of President Saddam Hussein to remain in office for seven more years was ridiculed in much of the Arab world yesterday.

The manipulated nature of the first ever Iraqi referendum on Sunday and the well-orchestrated displays of national celebration that followed, and in some cases preceded, it were dismissed by foreign television networks whose dismissive reports were

available on satellite channels in the Middle East. "Saddam has even broken the famous Arab record of 99 per cent in referendums and elections," said Fouad al-Hashem, a columnist in the Kuwaiti paper *al-Wakeel*. "He has achieved a new dream for dictators."

In a joint statement issued in Syria, nine Iraqi opposition groups issued a rare agreed statement calling the referendum "null and void".

According to Iraqi officials, there was a turnout of 99.47

per cent of the 8,402,321 eligible voters. A breakdown of the 8,860 spoilt papers and "no" votes gave, by extrapolation, a total of only between 5,100 and 5,900 dissenters in all Iraq.

Mustafa Amin, an Egyptian columnist, dismissed the poll as a ploy to conceal the damage caused in August by the defection of Saddam's son-in-law, Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan. "The 'yes' cast yesterday was that of humiliation and defeat," he wrote in *al-Akhbar*.

Appeal by Castro for support to end embargo

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN BARILOCHE, ARGENTINA

PRESIDENT CASTRO of Cuba yesterday sought to convince leaders from 18 Latin American countries, as well as Spain and Portugal, to speak out against the American-imposed embargo on his country.

Señor Castro, who is attending a two-day Ibero-American summit in the Argentine ski resort of Bariloche, is confident he will get what he came for. For the first time he has been assured of a unanimous declaration against the economic blockade, when the gathered leaders issue a final document today.

"I am appealing to my neighbours to issue a declaration against the evil embargo enforced by the United States," he said. "I am not promising to dismantle the communist system in exchange, but I can assure them that I will slowly open my country's economy."

Leaders in Latin America agree that the embargo, which has been in place for 35 years, has become counterproductive and is the main cause of economic hardship suffered by the Cuban people. They are expected to issue a muted condemnation of economic blockades against any country in the region, although it is not certain whether they will directly mention Cuba.

An Ibero-American condemnation would echo last week's declaration by the European Union in Brussels, opposing efforts by the US Congress to punish companies that promote commercial relations with Cuba. The EU plans to encourage investment links, especially in tourism.

The change in stance comes because the Clinton Administration appears to want to ease the pressure on Cuba. Two weeks ago, President Clinton announced educational exchanges between the two countries, and said US journalists would be allowed to set up bureaus in Havana, while Cuban journalists were to be given visas to work in America.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sithole detention attacked

Harare: The Zimbabwean Government was yesterday accused of being "repressive" by a lawyer defending the Rev Ndabingi Sithole, the opposition leader who has been arrested on charges including conspiracy to murder President Mugabe (Michael Hartnack writes).

But a magistrate refused to grant bail for Mr Sithole, 76. His lawyers may appeal against the detention order.

Mr Sithole said his arrest was linked to his plan to challenge Mr Mugabe, 71, in next year's elections.

Claes defiant

Brussels: Willy Claes, 56, the Nato Secretary-General, is to defend himself over corruption allegations before the Belgian parliament on Thursday, but was yesterday seen as likely to resign as speculation focused on his successor.

Ramos's thanks

Manila: President Ramos of the Philippines thanked the family of a man killed by a Filipino maid for dropping their death sentence demand. Campaigners now want Sarah Balabagan to be freed by the United Arab Emirates.

Rwandans held

Nairobi: Zambia said yesterday that it had arrested eight Rwandan exiles who were suspected of taking part in last year's genocide in their homeland. It was the first such crackdown by another African country. (Reuters)

Wall payout

Berlin: A former East German border guard has been ordered by a court to pay £4,500 compensation to a widow for shooting her husband during a night-time argument at New Year near the Berlin Wall in 1965. (AFP)

Unlucky charm

Phnom Penh: Chiang Hock Goan, 22, a Singaporean disc jockey at a Cambodian radio station, was shot dead after asking a soldier to fire at him to test the protective powers of an Islamic talisman he was wearing. (AFP)

Austria hit by wave of bombings

FROM MARCIA HILL IN VIENNA

THE explosion of two more letter bombs yesterday signalled the latest episode in a terror campaign attributed to right-wing extremists that continues to baffles authorities.

Mahmoud Abou-Roumie, 47, a doctor in Stronsdorf near Mistelbach 25 miles north of Vienna, sustained severe injuries to his right hand when the first bomb detonated in his surgery, at about 11am. He is an Austrian of Syrian extraction. One hour later a second bomb exploded in the post office of nearby Pöysdorf, injuring a prominent refugee worker, Maria Lohy, 71. Both her hands were injured.

The attacks, the fourth series since 1993, came on the day that two prominent witnesses testified against two neo-Nazi, Peter Binder and Franz Rudi, currently being tried in connection with earlier attacks.

Helmut Zilk, a former Mayor of Vienna, who was injured by a bomb in December 1993, testified as the latest bomb was detonated. Also giving evidence was Madeline Petrovic, Austria's Green Party leader, who was targeted in earlier attacks, but whose security personnel intercepted a bomb addressed to her.

Stink over Mafia puts fish off menu

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

THERE were ugly scenes, and ripe smells, at New York's celebrated fish market yesterday after an attempt to end alleged Mafia control. Fish lorries waited more than eight hours to be unloaded, and Manhattan's gourmet shops faced the unpalatable lunch without seafood.

The Fulton Street market, New York's Billingsgate, is a frenetic, cacophonous place, a physical embodiment of the market principles advanced by its neighbours in Wall Street. But how free has the market been? City administrators say that it has long been run by the mob and claim that the porters have overcharged by 20 per cent. Fish being a perishable cargo, lorry drivers need to keep the unloaders sweet.

Rudolph Giuliani, New York's Mayor, fired the porters last week and gave their work to a contractor previously known only for office cleaning. Yesterday was the new firm's first day, and it was chaos. Dawn brought a near-half-mile queue of fish lorries.

In the unloading bays the rookie porters stared, fish-flee in bemusement, at the cases of halibut, swordfish and flounder. One delivery man, Arthur Natis, complained: "These guys don't even know a pallet



Giuliani: sacked porters

CIA 'trade spies' irk Japanese

FROM PIERRE HODSON IN TOKYO

CLAIMS that the Central Intelligence Agency acted as an economic spy in the June car trade negotiations between Washington and Tokyo has provoked a sharp response from Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Trade Minister.

Mr Hashimoto, whose telephone conversations were said to have been monitored in the surveillance operation, was not amused, saying that the report in *The New York Times* was "nothing funny".

However, Tomichi Murayama, the Prime Minister, mindful of next month's summit with President Clinton, was quick to limit any diplomatic fallout, saying the report had yet to be confirmed. Even if it proved correct, Mr Murayama denied the CIA's activities had any adverse effect on the outcome.

Koken Nosaka, the Chief Cabinet Secretary and principal government spokesman, echoed the Prime Minister's views, but has ordered the Foreign Ministry to question America through diplomatic channels.

Economic espionage may be a new departure for the CIA, but by common tradition it has long been practised by Japan's companies overseas.

Bomb kills Ukraine football club boss

BY THOMAS DE WAAL

THE president of the Shakhtyor Donetsk football club in Ukraine and five other people were killed in a bomb explosion just before a match.

The remote-control bomb killed Aleksandr Bragin and several bodyguards as they were walking into the box reserved for guests on Sunday. The match between Shakhtyor and the Crimean team, Tavria, was abandoned.

"We have no theory on who did it," said Yuri Kolosov, the club's vice-president. He said the explosion was not linked to Shakhtyor's million-pound

dispute with Manchester United over the striker Andrei Kanchelskis. Shakhtyor is still negotiating with United over the transfer of Kanchelskis to Everton.

The explanation is more likely to lie in the connections between organised crime and sport in the former Soviet Union. Mr Bragin was also a wealthy businessman. Eighteen months ago, shortly before he joined Shakhtyor, he was wounded in an assassination attempt, and in August was arrested by police over a fraud allegation.

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Julian Critchley thought his polio had gone, but nearly 50 years later it seems to have come back to haunt him, writes Dr Thomas Stuttford

Poliomyelitis is a disease which sometimes has the unpleasant habit of returning to haunt its victims decades after they were first struck down. Sir Julian Critchley, the MP for Aldershot, was temporarily crippled by polio in 1945: now, after an active life as an author and politician, with no more than a wasted right leg and a Byronic limp to remind him of his initial attack, he is again disabled.

He cannot stand for any length of time, cannot walk more than a few yards and is in pain for a large part of the day when he finds it difficult to sit in comfort. He needs a wheelchair to attend the House.

Doctors disagree as to the cause of the post-poliomyelitis syndrome which afflicts older patients years after they had

Return of a crippling disease

an attack of paralytic polio. In many cases, it seems that the anterior horn cells of the spinal cord, which are the site of a polio infection, were depleted by the initial attack so that when the normal degenerative processes in the central nervous system start in middle and old age, more cells are lost than can be afforded. The result is a resumption of the muscle wasting and an increase in any weakness. Patients complain that shrunken limbs become more easily tired, and that they can no longer

undertake the physical tasks which they used to.

Atrophy of the anterior horn of the spinal cord is not the only cause of trouble for old polio sufferers, and many neurologists feel that post-poliomyelitis syndrome is no more than a smart name to describe the plethora of disorders which can be caused by the combined effects of age and long-term disability.

Sir Julian's recent troubles started in



1991 when, on three occasions, he had severe backache. His spine would have been subjected to abnormal stresses and strains during the 50 years it had to contend with a much stronger left than right leg. The crunch came in May 1991 on the day of his daughter's wedding. As often happens, the combination of tiredness, excitement and increased physical activity led to the protrusion of an intervertebral disc.

Within 24 hours, he was in hospital with an agonising right leg, and such weakness in the limb that he was no longer able to stand. When his symptoms persisted he was admitted for surgery to the National Hospital, London.

Everybody was confident that the surgery would be a success and that Sir Julian would be campaigning in the forthcoming general election with all his old vigour, and freed from pain. Although he was not able to knock on many doors and found that standing to make a

speech was excruciatingly painful, he polled more votes than ever before. After the election, he was admitted to hospital for rehabilitation, he swam and was beginning to walk again, albeit with crutches, when he slipped at the pool and broke a bone in his wasted foot.

Illness has taken its toll and Sir Julian is no longer in robust health but, even though largely immobile, he keeps in touch with his constituents by telephone. His doctors share his view that if the political culture are wheeling over Aldershot hoping for a by-election, they will need to move and circle elsewhere.

An account of Sir Julian's battle against polio occurs in his biography, *A Bag of Bones*, recently published in paperback by Faber, £5.99.

'Wilful and cantankerous people live longer than compliant sweet old folk'

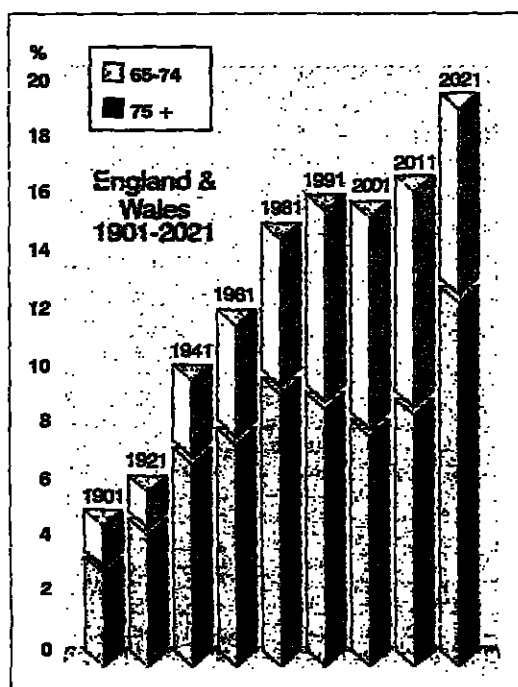
Will scientists find ways to slow down the ageing process?
Jeremy Laurance reports

Madame Jeanne Calment, who celebrated her 120th birthday in February, is not only the oldest person in the world but, today, becomes the oldest ever recorded. She passes the previous record of 120 years and 237 days set by Shigehiko Izumi, of Japan, who died in 1986. Mr Izumi attributed his longevity to his habit of rising at six every morning and drinking a flask of pure sugar cane spirit with his dinner each night.

Such triumphs of endurance are sufficiently rare to suggest that the maximum human lifespan is about 120 years. Yet average life expectancy is less than 80. There are differences of a few years between men and women and between nations — the Japanese live longest — but these pale into insignificance beside the 40-year gap between Mme Calment, Mr Izumi and the rest of us.

Scientists are taking an increasing interest in the reasons for the difference. Diet, exercise, no smoking and controlling blood pressure all matter. But new research into the biological basis of ageing is beginning to reveal the mechanisms that underlie these differences. In the long term it may yield treatments that can delay senescence and promise a healthier old age.

Tom Kirkwood, at Manchester University, is Britain's



More people are living longer, see graph, but few live as long as Jeanne Calment (pictured with her doctor) who is the oldest person ever recorded

first Professor of Biological Gerontology. He believes that we will soon be able to add life to years, even if we cannot add years to life.

"People need to be aware that it is an undesirable goal to increase longevity by adding extra years of low quality life, both in terms of enjoyment and of ability to live independently. The goal of research is to improve the later years."

"We may not be able to slow the body's clock but we may be able to tackle the causes of age-associated disease, and maybe one day slip in another decade or two of good quality life."

Understanding the reasons why we age is essential in order to focus research. According to Professor Kirkwood we age because the human organism has to strike a balance between expending

energy on securing its own survival as an individual, and expending energy on securing the survival of its genes, through reproduction.

Damage is constantly being caused to the cells and tissues and they are constantly being repaired by the body's maintenance systems. But all that is necessary is that the organism should remain in sound condition long enough to reproduce.

Mice, which are at high risk from predators, invest less in daily maintenance and more in reproduction than less-threatened species, such as bats. Longer-lived animals have lower reproduction rates and more efficient maintenance, while those with short lives have higher reproductive rates and less efficient maintenance.

On this evolutionary theory the level of maintenance is set so that the damage caused by ordinary wear and tear on the body's cells does not become apparent until an age when surviving in the wild would be extremely unlikely.

"If ageing results from the body carrying out a limited amount of maintenance on all its cells then in principle we might increase maintenance levels," Professor Kirkwood says. Earlier theories of ageing, he claims, have concentrated on single factors. Instead we have to look at the whole network of maintenance and repair processes that keep us alive. This rules out a single elixir of youth.

His research is spread over four areas aimed at identifying the crucial maintenance and repair systems, including DNA repair genes, anti-oxidant enzymes, so-called "stress proteins" and changes in the mitochondria of cells.

"Within five to ten years we will have a significant understanding of the mechanisms of

ageing. Beyond that, what is possible depends on what we find. We may be able to develop some drug or hormone that enhances the body's maintenance systems but we cannot be sure. It is open to question whether we can extend the maximum lifespan.

But if we can delay the onset of Alzheimer's disease or osteoporosis — diseases that bring an early death — that will contribute to the trend towards a longer life," Professor Kirkwood says.

For those who cannot wait for the results of his research

the best way of ensuring a long life is to choose long-lived parents, although they have to be exceptionally long-lived to make much of a difference. Jeanne Calment's parents died at 93 and 86.

If our genes determine how long we might live, our environment and lifestyle determine how close to that maximum we get. We can prevent or delay disabling diseases such as heart disease and stroke, and evidence shows it is never too late to stop smoking or take up exercise.

Equally important is attitude. The intelligent and well educated acquire a resistance to dementia and an inclination to live longer. People in control of their lives stay healthy and live longer than those who allow themselves to be buffeted by events.

John Grimley Evans, Professor of Clinical Gerontology at Oxford University, says very old people show psychological and behavioural characteristics that have helped them to survive in a dangerous world.

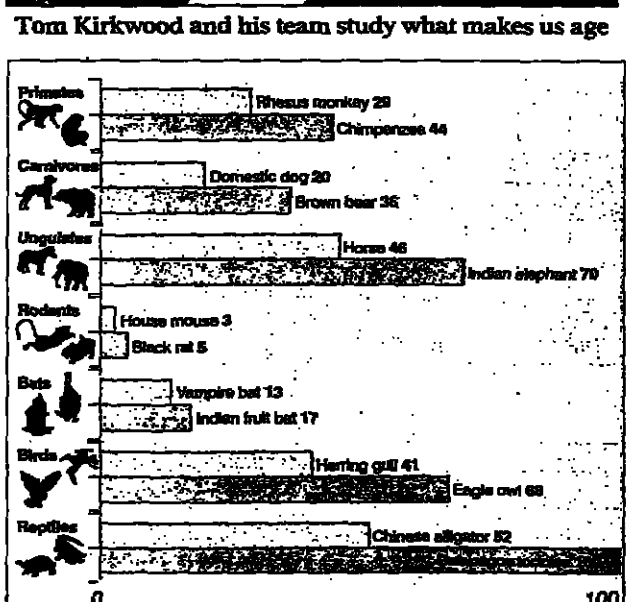
Evidence from America suggests wilful and cantankerous people, who insist on staying in control of their own lives, live longer than those who allow themselves to be buffeted by events.

Determined old people are also less prone to medical ailments, blatant examples of which are to be found in the NHS, according to Professor Grimley Evans. Old people are routinely offered poorer treatment than the young but their worse outcome is blamed on their age.

"The first imperative for those wishing to be a healthy hundred, therefore, is to be informed, stay in command, and be thoroughly obstreperous in refusing to be fobbed off with second-rate medical care."



Tom Kirkwood and his team study what makes us age



Different species enjoy different lifespans, suggesting genes affect longevity. Graphics MRC News/Medical Research Council

Is cervical screening really worthwhile?

Professor James Drife looks at new doubts about smear tests

For years doctors believed that if only the country's screening programme could be organised effectively, there would be a dramatic drop in the number of deaths from cervical cancer.

In 1988 it was radically improved and the proportion of women aged between 20 and 64 screened rose from 22 per cent to 83 per cent by 1993. But the drop in deaths has not yet happened and some leading researchers are beginning to sound disillusioned.

The *Lancet* recently published a report from doctors running cervical screening in Bristol, which has had a well-organised programme for many years. They had two worries, the first being whether or not their programme was doing any good. They pointed out that in Bristol 30 to 40 women die each year from cervical cancer and this total shows no sign of falling.

However, coverage of the target group did not reach high levels until the late 1980s. The natural history of the disease makes it unlikely that an effect on death rates will be seen until the year 2000. We do not, of course, know how many would be dying of cervical cancer nowadays if we had no screening programme.

The mortality from the disease has been declining through most of this century, and this fall has continued among older women. Among women under 40, however, it has increased, probably owing to changes in sexual behaviour.

The Bristol group, however, had another concern — the anxiety that cervical screening is creating among women. They reported that of the 255,000 women in Bristol, 15,551 had abnormal smears between 1988 and 1993. Of these, 6,000 were referred to hospital for investigation.

The Bristol numbers reflect the national pattern. About five million smears are performed each year in Britain and about 7 per cent (over a third of a million) are abnormal to some degree. Most of these abnormalities are borderline, merely requiring another smear in six months, but about 130,000 smears show "mild dyskaryosis", the management of which is contentious. Opinion has been divided over whether women

with "mild dyskaryosis" should be referred to hospital immediately for colposcopy or should simply have their smears repeated.

Women in high-risk groups often fail to return for their repeat smears, and we now know that it is the women who default who are at particular risk of developing an invasive cancer. The balance of opinion is therefore swinging towards immediate hospital referral even though this may lead to over-investigation.

In Bristol one in ten women in their twenties had mild, moderate or borderline changes. This may be because of an increase in incidence of the disease, but the Bristol group think it is more likely to be because the laboratory staff are under pressure to refer on the side of caution.

Over-diagnosis wastes resources and causes distress.

Research is in progress in improving the current test to make it more sensitive and specific — perhaps by testing for the virus that causes cervical cancer. We also need randomised trials of management options for the less serious abnormalities. Nevertheless, we have to accept that no screening test will ever be perfect.

This means that if in the future almost all women are screened, most of the few cancers that do occur will be in women who have had an apparently negative smear. These women may feel tempted to sue.

Some false negatives may indeed be caused by human error, but if the number of mistakes is to be minimised we need to identify and discuss them without a climate of fear. The Bristol team concluded that much of their effort is now devoted to limiting the harm done to healthy women and protecting their staff from litigation.

The main danger is that if we expect screening to work instant miracles we shall be disappointed. There remains the question of how much anxiety is worth one life saved. Research on anxiety is difficult but this is the direction in which scientific effort now needs to be directed.

James Drife is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Leeds.

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هاتف الاصل

Julia Llewellyn Smith on the Delia factor: foolproof recipes that have made the author a millionaire

Britain's favourite dinner lady

Two acquaintances of mine recently fell out over a cookery book. "The unpleasantness," as they refer to it, occurred when one of them held a dinner party and wowed her guests. Her best friend since primary school demanded the recipe and was told it came from a little-known American cookbook. "I'll buy it tomorrow," said the best friend. "Well, actually, I'd rather you didn't," said the cook. It was pointed out that you could not actually buy a book freely available in the shops, at which point the cook's lower lip began to quiver. "If you buy it then someone else will buy it and soon everyone will have it and it will become like Delia," she wailed.

The Delia factor is fast becoming one of the greatest basics of middle-class existence. Her presence is everywhere: no dinner party is complete without Delia's Chicken Basque, no picnic proper without her pesto rice salad. Now that her *Winter Collection* is upon us the aisles of Sainsbury's will be littered with the trampled bodies of losers in the fight for the last cranberries (essential for the braised red cabbage recipe).

Occasionally cooks try to break out of the Delia trap, to startle their friends with a recipe from a rival. They are invariably disappointed. The kitchen fills with smoke, the soufflé fails to rise, by the time the main course is served the guests are too drunk to do more than prod it. Meanwhile in the flat next door, where they videoed the step-by-step guidelines for black bean soup with black bean salsa, all is contentment, and the guests' babysitters can be relieved at midnight.

Smith is never wrong. Why else have her books sold more than eight million copies? One, the *Complete Cookery Course*, has never been out of print since its initial publication in 1978. A million people bought *The Summer Collection*, a figure which will soon be dwarfed by *The Winter*

I am not a great cook; anyone can do what I can'

Collection, which, in its first week of publication, has sold more than 500,000 copies, more than her publisher had hoped for by Christmas.

Her power to move the market is remarkable. She illustrated a recent article in the *Sainsbury's Magazine* with a picture of a sautépan of shallots. Sales increased by 2,000 per cent. In 1990 liquid glucose became as rare as venison, after she mentioned it as a vine ingredient in the perfect truffle sauce. Ladies cutters for pretty pie toppings, pickled walnuts and cherry brandy miniatures have sold out throughout Europe within hours of Smith's endorsement.

What inspires such learning-like devotion? According to Deborah Owen, Smith's agent, the secret is simple. "She spends an enormous amount of time testing her recipes. She knows we need to be guided." The results, tested by a team of three at least three times, are famously foolproof. If Delia says add six egg yolks and you only have

five in the fridge, you go out and buy another carton. If she says bake on a high heat for 45 minutes, you do not set the oven to low, in order to watch the whole of *Pride and Prejudice* uninterrupted.

In foodie circles, Smith is treated with the contempt normally reserved for Oxo cubes. Critics snipe at her lack of originality and populist touch. Yet this, says Owen, is precisely what endears her to the masses. "She is one of us and she has never forgotten what it means to have to cook yet another meal."

Smith is a communicator, not an entertainer. She would no more dream of taking a Floyd-like swig from a bottle than of using packet gravy. She is friendly without being funny, sympathetic yet brisk. On television there is no doubt that the star of the show is the Pork in Cider Vinegar Sauce, rather than its creator.

A failure at school, she got a job in a restaurant to get back at a



Delia Smith tests her recipes endlessly — "she knows we need to be guided," says her agent, Deborah Owen

boyfriend who kept talking about his ex, a cordon-bleu chef. She listens to Dire Straits in the car, has freckled hands with scrubbed fingernails and admits to the occasional Big Mac and M&S ready meal.

"I am not a great cook," she says. "What I can cook, anyone can cook." Despite pleas from the health lobby, she refuses to stop basting her chickens in butter and beating bowls of caramel.

Deborah Owen was newly married to David (now Lord Owen) when she first met this printer's daughter from Bexleyheath, in 1969. "I had been existing on a diet of yoghurts and salads and now I had a husband to feed. David is passionate about poached eggs and I simply could not

work out how to break the egg in the water and not have it spread out to all sides of the pan. I started talking to Delia about this and she told me that the whole thing entirely depends on the freshness of the eggs. Then she told me how to tell if an egg is fresh (it must float in water). I thought if she can dispel all my hang-ups and fears, she can help anyone."

Since this happy encounter, the Owen household has been a culinary haven and the Smith bank account has flourished, its empire spreading from books and television to magazine publishing and corporate consultancy. Smith's husband, Michael Wynn Jones, is the founder and editor of Sainsbury's *The Magazine*, aka the Delia Smith fanzine, with monthly sales of 300,000. She advises

both Sainsbury's and British Airways, for whom she makes videos, promoting its in-flight food.

The couple, who are childless, are millionaires several times over, have a cottage in Suffolk with a live-in housekeeper and an odd-job man whose duties include driving them to their London flat in the Jaguar. Yet if Smith has an aura it is still one of shepherd's pie rather than beluga. She is a devoted Catholic who attends Mass every morning, and was responsible for launching the television career of her friend Sister Wendy Beckett. Her only flops have been her religious books: *Feast for Lent* and *Feast for Advent* had combined sales of a mere 125,000. The trouble is, these days more people believe in Delia than believe in God.

Divorced from reality

We must face up to children's fears of their parents separating

Nothing has changed so radically over such a short space of time as the family. When I was a small child, I don't think any friends of mine had parents who were divorced. In my teens, a handful of friends' parents had split up, and the rest of us were hushed and somewhat unnerved by the fact. But we regarded them, for all our aghast sympathy, as glamorous exotics whose experience smacked of the drama out of which we supposed the lives of film stars' children were made. I remember, when my parents divorced (when I was quite old), both my grandmothers remarking that no one in their family had ever got divorced before.

Now divorce is so commonplace that, according to a MORI survey published yesterday, a third of all children are deeply anxious about the prospect of their parents separating, and more than 80 per cent of children know people who are divorced or separated.

These findings are not surprising. How could they be? I am not saying that divorce is a crime but there is a comparison one might make here. Normally the fear of crime is greater by far than the likelihood of that fear being realised. But the fear that children have of divorce seems entirely in pace with the probability of their being a victim of it. Thus, it is a reasonable fear.

On the whole, it is parents who wish to deny this, and they do so because they like to exonerate themselves by pronouncing that it is better for a child that his or her parents divorce rather than stay unhappily together. Children, however, do not agree. And maybe they are right.

The whole notion of family has been so hijacked by politicians that it is hard to clear a space in which to talk honestly and clearly about it. Of course, it wasn't the Right who started to do away with the family, vilifying it as a bourgeois institution? But the difficulty now is that the Right has made

such a thing about being the party of the family that those who are not on the Right seem to feel it incumbent on them to take the opposing view, without stopping to think how illogical that is.

Now that nice Tony Blair has come to put a stop to that, but so much damage has been done already. On a personal level, parents are keen to underplay the effect of divorce on their children, not just because they can't bear the guilt, but because they can't bear the idea of their children suffering; but that suffering exists, and to pretend it doesn't is the worst thing you can do to a child, worse even than the divorce itself.

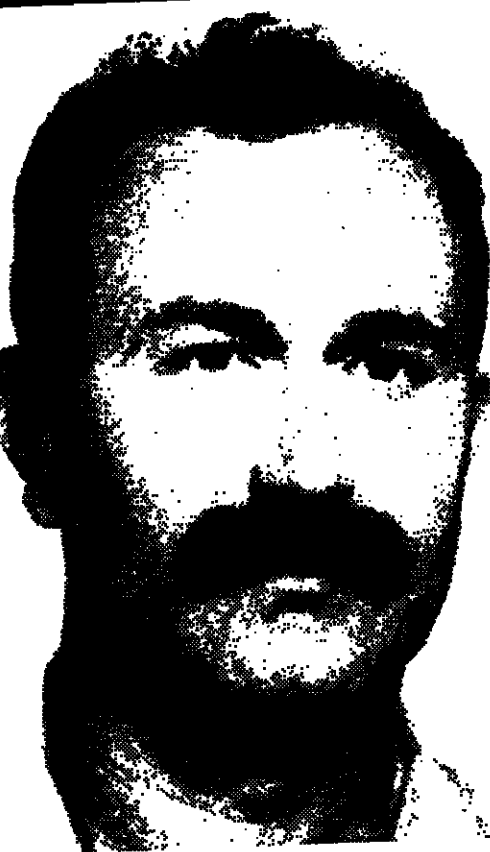
Publicly, the issue is made foggy by unhelpful political alignment. If the Tory Right and their friends say that single parents are the fount of evil, then the rest of us must say that it's all OK, that's not where the trouble lies. Well, it is a real possibility.

It is a case of out of the mouths of babes and sucklings: of course it is better for children to have security, two parents and a sense of support from, and belonging to, a family. I think it is right not to wish to rush up and cast blame on those who have not managed to provide this, but that doesn't mean we must act as if nothing has gone wrong.

The problem is that children will always have the fear of their parents separating, because they see by looking around at their friends that it is a real possibility. All we can do is to help children to face up to their fears and parents to their responsibilities. Confronting the issue without prejudice, in the form of either self-serving emotional blindfold or well-intentioned ideology, would be a start.



NIGELLA LAWSON



Bogdan was an ordinary man who led a quiet life, loved his wife and got on well with the neighbours. Unfortunately this did not save him from a fate worse than death.

Bogdan was a lorry driver who lived in a town in the former Yugoslavia with his wife Sofija.

Even after war broke out they were on cordial terms with their neighbours, despite being of a different nationality. Bogdan was not involved in politics. No-one understood why the unmarked police car took him away for questioning. He passed a lie-detector test and was allowed to go home again. Three weeks later two armed men wearing army fatigues, claiming to be policemen, came to his door and took him away at gunpoint. He has never been seen since.

Sofija has tried to find her husband. She went to the police station, to be told Bogdan was not there. She wrote to the Red Cross, the country's Parliament, the Ministry of Internal Affairs. All to no avail. Sofija lives in hope that Bogdan may be alive, but she can't be sure. Four years have passed since his "disappearance". As more years roll by without a word, Sofija's agony will never end. She will be denied the healing power of being able to mourn. That is why "disappearance" often seems a fate worse than death.

Amnesty supports families in their search for the "disappeared". Join us or send a donation now.

Today is Tuesday 17 October.
How many more days, how many more deaths, before you join us?

I wish to become a member of Amnesty International.
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£7.50 Student ☐ Under 22 ☐ Claimant ☐ Senior Citizen ☐
I wish to donate £500 ☐ £250 ☐ £100 ☐ £50 ☐ £25 ☐ £10 ☐
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Wood is a natural raw material that the world has learnt to use in many ways. In helping to ensure healthy forests and by recycling paper, the Finnish forest industry is demonstrating its commitment to the forests of the future.



The taxes that we should cut

Kenneth Baker suggests ways to encourage enterprise

Ken Clarke will have some scope to reduce taxes in the Budget, and has held out the prospect of a rolling programme of steadily falling taxes. This will be a significant part of the Tory programme.

Apart from raising the threshold at which income tax is first levied, and raising the point at which people cross from 25 per cent to 40 per cent, he should seize the opportunity to reform and reduce the taxes on capital. John Major wants wealth to cascade down from one generation to the next. The formation of capital is essential for industrial and commercial investment.

In 1979, Margaret Thatcher inherited a massive marginal rates of tax of 83 per cent on employment, and 98 per cent on investment income. These were immediately reduced to 60 per cent and 75 per cent, and eventually to 40 per cent on investment and 50 per cent (including National Insurance) on employment income: a sensible move towards a broad-based, fairly low-rate tax system.

But the record is poor on capital gains tax and inheritance tax: these have, perversely, been "reformed" in the wrong direction. In 1979 the Thatcher Government inherited an unintended capital gains tax, which, coupled with a high rate of inflation, constituted an effective wealth tax at a rate higher than that ever formally proposed by any socialist politician. Inflation was introduced between 1982 and 1985, but is no longer so relevant since inflation has fallen.

That was a good start, but the first big mistake was to make the rate of capital gains tax the same as that of income tax, at 40 per cent. American experience has shown that a tax as high as this discourages venture capital investment. Indeed, the Treasury recognises this because it has brought in a scheme to reduce capital gains tax on certain kinds of venture capital. As part of the measures to encourage investment in small business, the Chancellor last year extended the generous capital gains relief under the enterprise investment scheme, and tidied up those on Peps.

We now over-tax capital gains generally, only to relieve particularly favoured activities such as venture capital and house-ownership. This is a policy usually associated with interventionist governments of the Wilson persuasion, rather than those claim-

ing to support free markets. There is also evidence that any tax incentive which has to be packaged as a marketed scheme results in about half the tax benefit going into the salesman's pocket. This doubles the cost of the effective incentive.

The yields, expressed in April 1995 prices, are shown below. As a result of indexation and the relief, the yield of capital gains tax has fallen, and it now represents 0.4 per cent of total government receipts. It is tempting to abolish it altogether. But the Chancellor may not be prepared in one fell swoop to find the £930 million that this would cost.

A good solution would be to "taper" capital gains. Assets sold in the first year should be taxed at 40 per cent; in the second year at 30 per cent; in the third year at 20 per cent; in the fourth year 10 per cent; and assets held over four years would be free of this tax.

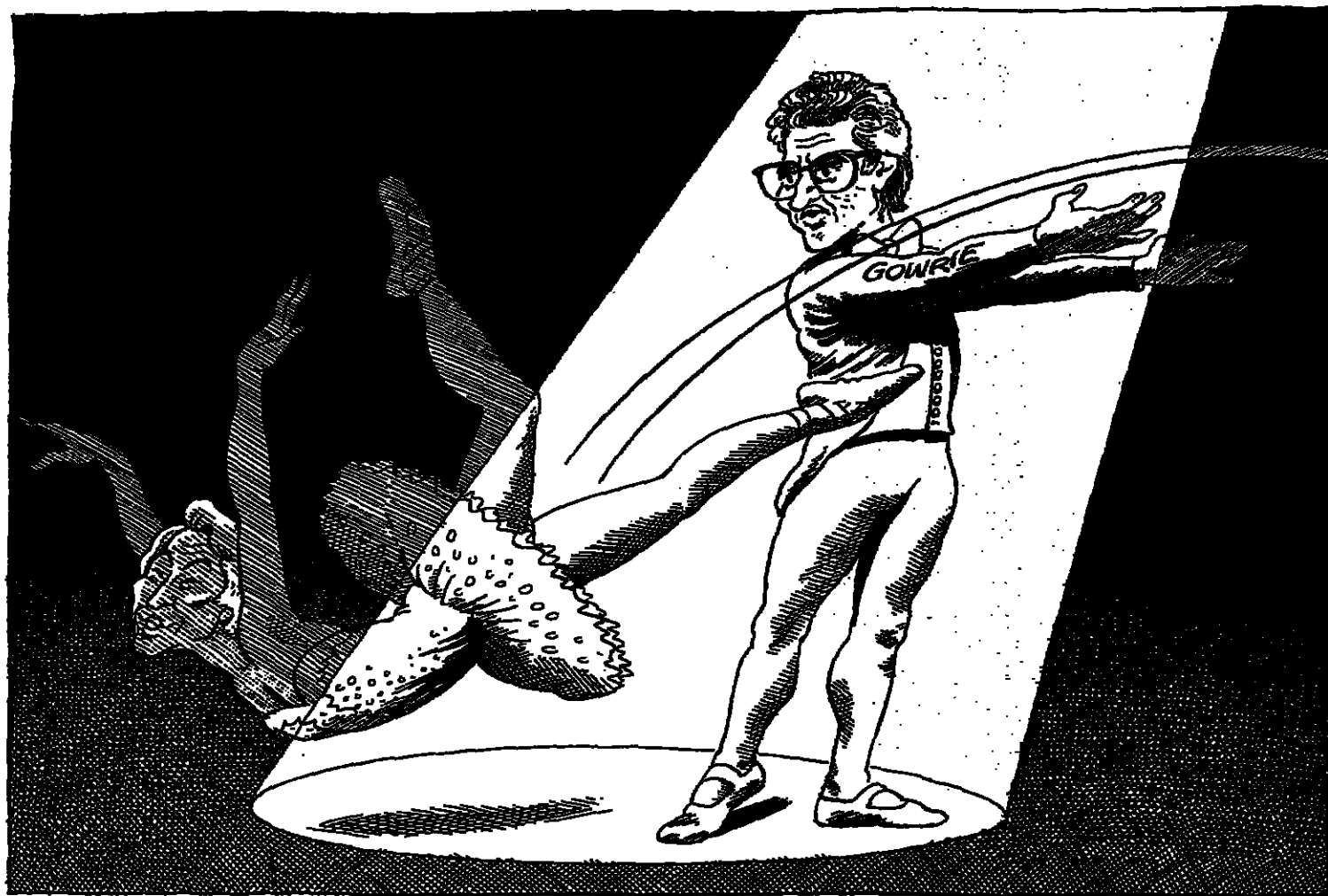
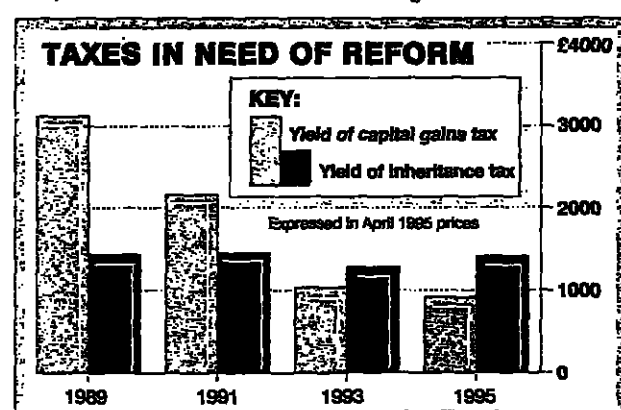
This would be simple and would encourage people to hold assets for a longer time. Indexation with all its complexities would go, and Peps could be phased out, since their principal attraction is the elimination of this tax.

Inheritance tax needs a fundamental overhaul. It is now imposed at a flat rate of 40 per cent, with a low threshold of £154,000. In Europe the average is 25 per cent. Correcting for inflation, an estate of between £150,000 and £430,000 now suffers more tax than in November 1974 under the Healey capital transfer tax. These rates are far too high, and affect a particularly productive section of society.

There is a good case for abolishing inheritance tax, but it does bring in significant revenue and it is no bad thing if the children of the successful have to work to recreate something of what their parents had.

The right approach is a broad-based low-rate tax system. I suggest raising the threshold from £140,000 to £300,000, and a rate of 30 per cent above that. In addition, assets given to children, or other direct dependants, should be taxed at half that rate, namely 15 per cent.

Under this regime, larger estates would continue to pay a substantial amount in tax: moderate estates would be exempt; and the passage of family savings from one generation to the next would be encouraged.



THE LOTTERY PLUMS FAIRY

Let's all be guides

Middle age owes a duty to youth: not to fawn or fear, but to instruct

Brown Owl is an endangered species: official. The Guide Association has admitted that it is running out of leaders, with keen packs and troops forced to close. Their explanation is the rise of working motherhood. As one county commissioner put it, "So many ladies today are forced to go out to work" — a conjunction of words which conjures up irresistibly the picture of a gently bred Edwardian grande dame being marched off down the mine.

There is some truth in this. The Guides need bright, outward-looking women, and such women tend to have jobs and come back in the evening in need of a stiff, un-Guide-like drink. Add family responsibilities and you have a doubly powerful disincentive to spending the evening doing Gings Gongs. Coolly round the roadstead, or planning a Children-Act-proof Brownie camp. Applause is due to anybody who does it at all.

Over at Scout HQ, a spokesman mournfully agreed that Akela and Baloo are a bit short, too. He too blamed job pressure, observing that "Once, if the boss told a car worker to do Saturday overtime, that bloke would be prepared to say no if he had a Scout camp on. But now it's harder. People who are in work are under more pressure." The familiar gloomy picture develops: of a nation running on the spot, its workers stressed, its unemployed depressed, and with hardly anyone balanced and relaxed enough to look after the younger generation.

However, I suspect there is more to it than mere busyness. The clue is that despite modern stresses, it is far easier to find leaders for Brownies and Cubs than for Guides and Scouts. There will always be people who are happy to work with children under ten. Youngsters are seriously disturbed, young children are fun. They are enthusiastic and uncomplicated, they laugh at your jokes, they want to listen. Moreover, they are obviously children. Despite rare horrors like the Bulger case, despite all the underclass infant bogyman in the news and Michael Howard's exhilarating promise on the Tory conference fringe to consider using "neural software" on police computers to target six-year-olds who might turn out criminal, most adults know a child when they see one, and smile.

This changes abruptly with puberty. We have had some vintage examples lately of this unwillingness to accept that age and experience matter. On Sunday, the family of Adam Dent at last explained themselves. Adam was the child who at 14 years old went to St Hugh's College, Oxford, to read chemistry. By the

time he was 15, in June of this year, he had been accused of rape after a night out on rum-and-Coke at a Conservative Association garden party with a gang of drunken pranksters. No charge was ever brought, and it appears that the university has offered to have him back. But the really interesting thing is that anybody ever thought it was sane to send a child of 14 — however good at chemistry — to live unsupervised in a community of young adults.

Who threw Adam, barely fledged, into this pit of soiled, sexy, callous young Conservatives? Why, the college itself, and his parents, who meekly accepted the college ruling that he must, unlike Ruth Lawrence, live unchaperoned as a normal student. When his mother Jessie packed his sponge-bag, she relates, his father slipped in a pack of condoms. Awed by his intellect, they were blind to his immaturity: they felt that their life was giving him a chance to "make a life for himself". His mother does say that she believed he would be looked after because it was Oxford; but he wasn't. Which just goes to show that dons are not as bright as they are cracked up to be.

Barely a weekend passes without the revolting spectacle of some hip writer on popular culture desperately trying to disguise from onlookers the fact that he will never see 30 again, or some grown woman driving on about "clubbing". If media editors capture a real young person, they cling on to their treasure for years, gleefully. I am told they can turn quite nasty when their token kiddo is caught watching *Pride and Prejudice* or going to bed early.

We have had some vintage examples lately of this unwillingness to accept that age and experience matter. On Sunday, the family of Adam Dent at last explained themselves. Adam was the child who at 14 years old went to St Hugh's College, Oxford, to read chemistry. By the

night with a male hooker" you might as well. Personally, I tended to agree with Laraine Ashton. She seems genuinely solicitous for the schoolgirls she grows for stardom, and admirably unafraid of sounding middle-aged. Perhaps she should leave Mr Phang to it, and consider becoming a Guide leader.

Of course, young people have always ridiculed adults who try to advise or protect them. That is their privilege. I did it myself. The difference these days is that everybody does it. We stay away from the idea that with every year, every experience, you gain a new duty towards those behind you. Discarding that notion has not led to an egalitarian 1960s Utopia, but to a nervous, cross, unkind, covert battle between generations. Instead of mentoring and supporting the young, we envy and fear them, and either attack them or copy them slavishly.

Which is a pity, for solicitude need not be pompous. I had some splendid mentors when I was in my late teens, old-fashioned university tutors who — because their lives had been spent in enjoyable thought and reading — valued their years and had no envy whatever of their students. They were terribly interested (I once spent an hour explaining Flower Power to Hugo Dyson), but always related every new idea to half-a-dozen old ones, with such style and gusto that nobody minded.

If you are crossed in love, drinking too much and going temporarily mad, the last thing you need is a session with your equally batty peer-group. You need a wise old bird who dispenses dry sherry, dry sympathy, a spare bedroom if your digs have become temporarily untenable owing to romantic upsets, and advice which you are free to ignore.

That generation is now too old to bear the burden. Clearly, it is up to those now becoming middle-aged to admit as much and take over the job. For, are you? Go on, risk the ridicule, admit that you know a thing or two, and pass it on to a younger person today.

I have made a start. The other night, at the end of a long evening debating marriage at the Cheltenham Literary Festival, I found myself telling the imposing black-bearded Rabbi Shmuel Botzch that being only 28 he couldn't possibly know about marriage. Oy oy, my son the rabbi, what does he know?

advise them. Yesterday he was spotted lunching with Alan Walters, the economist so admired by Baroness Thatcher.

Stupendous

CONFUSION reigned in the world of opera recently when news broke about the making of a film entitled *The Shadow Conspiracy*. The political thriller was to star Dame Joan Sutherland as the White House Chief of Staff. The unlikely tale originated with a San Francisco paper, which issued a retraction the next day: the role would be played by Dame Joan, it explained, but by Donald Sutherland.

Telling an abusive fan what you think of him is one thing, but Eric Cantona is blunt even when discussing his mother's cooking. In next month's *Esquire*, his brother, Joel, gives an insight into life when the family gets together back in Marseilles. "We eat together, and we don't talk. If the food is good someone will say so; if it isn't, we'll tell our poor mother. That wasn't so good today. Then we watch a match on television or talk about football."

There are doubtless ways to make boxing safer. But it is difficult to conclude that it should be banned, to become an illegal underground sport which might turn out more dangerous. I for one would feel uncomfortable about outlawing an activity so clearly enjoyed by thousands of youngsters in those inner-city ghettos. And it would be hypocritical to argue for its abolition when the mere contemplation of Mike Tyson stepping back into the ring sets my pulse racing.

Death stalks the ring

Magnus Linklater says boxing sets his pulse racing

Boxing is the only sport that induces a general sense of guilt simply because it is allowed. By all rights it should have been banned long ago. The late Edith Summerskill, who campaigned so single-mindedly against it, would be appalled that what she called "the ignoble art" is still practised today. The death of Jim Murray, punched to the floor last Friday night in front of a crowd of baying drunks who hurled glasses and chairs into the ring because they reckoned the wrong fighter had won, sums up its seediness. Boxing appeals to the most visceral of instincts: it is corrupt, it is cruel, it is horribly violent.

It is also, undeniably, glamorous. I remember going to the Muhammad Ali-Joe Frazier world heavyweight fight in Madison Square Garden in January 1974, and I doubt if I will ever witness a more exciting sporting event. It was partly the theatre of the occasion — the front-row audience from Harlem, the men swathed in furs and glittering with jewellery, the women in scarlet, the single spotlight on Ali as he carved a way through the crowds; his dancing skills in the ring; the final heart-stopping rounds as he held on for a points decision: these are indelible memories. For years I visited out-of-the-way cinemas in the early hours of the morning to watch simultaneous transmissions of heavyweight fights from places such as Las Vegas or Zaire. I stopped only when Ali stopped.

A boxing hero is adored in a way no other sportsman is, perhaps because we know that he takes his life in his hands every time he steps into the ring. We love Frank Bruno not just because he is patently a nice bloke, but because he is brave enough to expose himself to terminal damage at the hands of opponents who are often stronger and more skilled than he is. I once went to a child's fancy-dress party dressed up as Randy Turpin, wearing football boots and a singlet with his name sewn onto the front, my face smeared with brown boot polish. It was a popular choice: I won second prize.

But hostility to boxing has grown steadily, not just because of the injuries it has inflicted, but because of the close-up view that television gives of battered faces and bleeding heads. Before that it was generally held to be a healthy sport, especially at school level. I remember being started off as a 13-year-old at something called extra special weight, huge gloves hanging from stick-like arms, flailing away to no great effect. Then I graduated to paper weight and came up against a rather larger boy who swung a ferocious right hook at me in the second round and knocked me flat onto the canvas. I heard later that it had been a jolly good fight, but I decided then to hang up my gloves.

Most schools have now banned boxing as dangerous and even anti-social. Elsewhere, ironically, boxing is still seen as an antidote to social deprivation, a red-blooded alternative to crime, drugs and the cycle of poverty. The poor boy who claws his way to the top via the local gym is the running cliché of almost every Hollywood boxing movie. Not so long ago I visited a run-down hall in Leith where kids gather every evening to don gloves and protective headgear and jab away at each other in the ring. They were being watched by a retired boxer with a broken nose and a greying crewcut who leaned on the ropes and barked instructions; he could easily have been played by Spencer Tracy. Around the ring other young hopefuls were practising on punch-bags, skipping until the sweat ran off their faces, or discussing the finer points of close-in work. Few will make their way to the top or earn enough from the sport to make it a reliable career. But it seemed a healthier activity than choosing lottery numbers, and there was no doubting their enthusiasm.

It was in just such a hall, the Cleland Amateur Boxing Club in Lanarkshire, that Jim Murray started his career. As an out-of-work 19-year-old, he began to train for what he saw might be a decent future, and Friday nights' fight, would have been his breakthrough. "He lived for it and he got a lot of enjoyment out of it," said his manager, Alex Morrison. A local councillor who knew him well said: "I remember thinking that he might drift into drink and drugs as so many young lads do. But not Jim."

Murray's death, however, has made even Morrison reconsider the sport. "The question we have got to ask ourselves is 'Would you let your own son be a boxer?' — and I would not like my son to be a boxer. Most of us would agree."

There are doubtless ways to make boxing safer. But it is difficult to conclude that it should be banned, to become an illegal underground sport which might turn out more dangerous. I for one would feel uncomfortable about outlawing an activity so clearly enjoyed by thousands of youngsters in those inner-city ghettos. And it would be hypocritical to argue for its abolition when the mere contemplation of Mike Tyson stepping back into the ring sets my pulse racing.

Smoke signals

A CRISIS has hit the most expensive dinner in London this year, to be held at the Dorchester on Saturday in celebration of the cigar. Guests who have paid \$1,000 per head to sample the world's finest cigars between courses of the most exquisite food may be bringing their own smokes.

Hunters & Frankau, the cigar importers responsible for the tobacco menu, have organised a shipment from Cuba which should include boxes of the finest Havanas signed by Fidel Castro. The shipment hasn't arrived, because Castro took his time signing them. "They aren't in the country yet," said Simon Chase, marketing director of Hunters & Frankau. "The President didn't get his pen out until last week, so we have nothing to smoke at the dinner and nothing to auction. It's touch and go."

The evening has been organised by the publisher of *Cigar Aficionado*, Marvin Shanken. The invitation card doesn't pull punches. It says: "Dinner of the century — London." But Edward Sahakian, managing director of Frankau, who last year paid \$22,000 for a box of 50 cigars similar to those being made available, is con-

cerned: "I'd like to try to buy some again at the dinner. I just hope the booty will be there." More than 135 cigar lovers attending the dinner, including Baroness Philippine de Rothschild (voted Cigar Man of the Year in 1992) will be keeping their fingers crossed too. The unique selection of Cuban cigars now



Castro: drinks on him

stuck somewhere in customs has been made expressly for the evening by the Cohiba and Partagas factories in Havana.

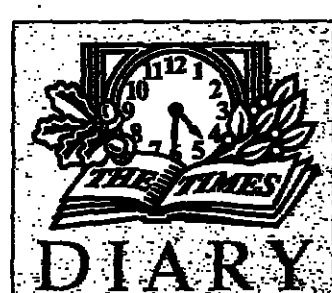
Friendly call

LORD GOWRE is hobbled with a walking stick to his podium yesterday to announce the lucky winners in the sixth tranche of lottery money allocations. It looked as if the Arts Council chairman had been beaten up by one of his critics. Absolutely not, he protested, although he had been damaged in the line of duty. "I was in the bath when it happened, recovering from an expedition hunting rare and hideous fungi in the countryside," he said. "The phone rang and I slipped as I was getting out to take the call. Cracked some ribs." The caller was Mary Allen, his secretary-general at the Arts Council.

Bash on

THE EXCITING run-up to the Christmas party has an edge at the glossy magazine group Condé Nast this year because the venue for the bash has yet to be built.

Nicholas Coleridge, the group's managing director, has circulated an encouraging memo telling staff to put the date in their diary. "This



year we are holding it at a new, enormous restaurant... It is still being completed, but we have high hopes of it being finished in time." In the meantime, a minion at Condé Nast has been assigned an important task for the party: "He is going to put together an amusing video featuring everyone in the company. So when he appears in your office with a camera, that is what is happening." Ho ho.

Yes, we have

BANANAS are running out in Leeds. The Fiji national team in the Rugby League World Cup is fuelled by the fruit in its adventurous but unsuccessful play (beaten 46-0 and 66-0 by England and Australia respectively). But the Posthouse Hotel outside Leeds where the team has been staying

is struggling to keep up with demand. "They've been getting through three and a half cases a day, that's about 200 bananas," says the kitchen manager, Dawn Slack. "We've been getting extra deliveries and then buying up all the bananas locally. There isn't a banana to be had in the shops around here."

Sir James Goldsmith, the billionaire Euro MP, has already recruited 180 would-be MPs to join his anti-Europe party at the next general election. He may also have picked up a first-class economist to



"It's make your mind up time, chuck"

P.H.S



OUT OF PRISON

Howard sacks his executive agent

A lucky Cabinet minister would be given a few peaceful post-conference days before re-entering the great political battle. An unlucky one faces resignation calls when he has barely had time to unpack his seaside suitcase. Yesterday, after an unusually fortunate party outing for a Tory Home Secretary, Michael Howard's luck ran out.

Sir John Leeson's report on prison security in general and the particular escape of three inmates from Parkhurst prison in January was an indictment from which no chief executive could recover. The departure of Derek Lewis as Director-General of the Prison Service yesterday was as inevitable as it was overdue. Mr Howard is, strictly speaking, cleared of culpability. Few, however, will see the Home Secretary as wholly immune from blame.

Mr Howard stays in his job. He remains Home Secretary for the same very good political reasons that put him there in the first place and kept him there at the last Cabinet reshuffle. Mr Lewis loses his job because a part of being Director-General of the Prison Service is to be a buffer for the political master. Since it is important for the future of the "executive agency" system that the best possible candidates are attracted to its ranks, future candidates should note carefully what they are paid for.

Mr Lewis has been a poor steward of the prison system. He should better have gone last December when the Woodcock inquiry into the attempted breakout of five IRA inmates from Whitemoor prison revealed astonishingly lax discipline. Had Mr Lewis heeded the advice of his official inspectors, further inquiry would have been unnecessary. Judge Stephen Tumm had given ample warning of security defects at both Whitemoor and Parkhurst. Only when prisoners escaped, was action taken: the Government has paid dearly for its refusal to confront this problem earlier.

The report's immediate effect must be to transform the role of Parkhurst where Sir John identified "lax and unprofessional" procedures, "a chapter of errors at every

level and a naivety that defies belief". This prison can no longer be regarded as a safe location for high-security inmates.

Broader questions for the prison system remain. Sir John favours the establishment of a single maximum-security jail to hold all of Britain's most dangerous prisoners, an idea which was first proposed by Lord Mountbatten in 1966. The attraction of this approach is its simplicity. Yet the escapes from Whitemoor and Parkhurst had more to do with procedure and failures of communication than with the number of prisoners in which high-security inmates are kept. Mr Howard should study this proposal further before reaching a decision.

The experience of the Prison Service since it became a semi-independent executive agency has not been happy. Agency status has encouraged efficiency, enabled the service to borrow best practice from the private sector, and put a useful distance between Whitehall and the day-to-day management of prisons. But it has also posed unresolved questions about accountability in this most sensitive of public services. What lines of responsibility separate the Home Office from the agency and the agency from prison governors? Sir John indicated yesterday that he considers the buck to stop with the service's own board. The full investigation into this question which Mr Howard has promised is clearly needed.

So grave are the charges now levelled against the Prison Service that the question of its agency status has itself become an issue. Mr Lewis's successor must demonstrate that the prison system can be run in this still experimental way without breaching public trust. He or she will need a greater knowledge of government machinery. Far better communication is required throughout the hierarchy that stretches from Home Secretary to individual prison officer. Above all, Mr Lewis's successor must be able to inspire prison governors, who have become demoralised and unsure of what is expected of them. If the service is to retain its independence, it will need a rare form of leadership.

JUDGE OVER YOUR SHOULDER

Modern courts and the modern politician

Labour's Shadow Lord Chancellor has joined a plump list of politicians who have criticised judges for trespassing on Parliament's constitutional territory. A few years ago, Lord Irvine of Lairg attacked the judiciary for its culture of "judicial supremacism" and for its apparent challenges to the doctrine of parliamentary sovereignty. Is this criticism justified?

The original conception of parliamentary sovereignty — as proposed by Albert Venn Dicey, the Victorian jurist — died effectively in 1972 with the passage of the European Communities Act. In theory, of course, Parliament can still make or unmake "any law" (including the repeal of the 1972 Act itself). But practice shows how unrelated the Diceyan view of parliamentary sovereignty now is to our present political arrangements.

The obvious external face of these arrangements is Britain's membership of the European Union: membership obliges Parliament to make only those laws which are in harmony with the extensive corpus of EU law. The European Court of Justice in Luxembourg may rule that British legislation violates EU law — that it is, in effect, "unconstitutional" — and its jurisprudence shows that it has often done so. Inevitably, our own courts have grown bolder in their analyses and interventions.

From the *Factortame* Case (when the Divisional Court suspended the operation of an Act of Parliament while the European court examined the Act's substance) to last year's *Equal Opportunities Commission* Case (when the House of Lords ruled that aspects of an employment protection statute were in-

compatible with European law), the judiciary has begun to tailor its role to reflect political and constitutional realities. Parliament should consider an elegant consolidation of these realities within the framework of its own sovereignty: domestic courts could be empowered clearly by an Act of Parliament to adjudicate on questions of compatibility between domestic law and EU law.

The domestic face of our present political arrangements poses an altogether different sort of problem. The modern State carries out such a gamut of functions that Parliament has often needed to confer broad discretionary powers on the executive. Yet the legislature is now much less capable of controlling the executive — and much less inclined to do so — than it has been in the past. The judiciary, by its development of the device of judicial review, has sought to fill that vacuum: it has tried to ensure that the executive does not abuse those powers conferred on it by Parliament.

Judicial review has grown for other reasons too: sloppily drafted legislation and the poor standard of legal advice available in many Whitehall departments have often conspired against the citizen and his rights. But the true significance of judicial review is its emergence as a necessary counterweight to the growth of executive power. In the words of Lord Woolf, who has done more for administrative law than any other judge, "it is one of the strengths of the common law that it enables the courts to vary the extent of their intervention to reflect current needs". In doing so the courts preserve the delicate equilibrium of a modern, post-industrial, democratic society.

FINLAND'S REALIST

A Nordic ally with whom Britain can do business

President Ahtisaari of Finland today arrives in Britain for a state visit of significance. The date, though coincidental, is propitious: it is a year since Finns voted in a referendum to join the European Union. Finland has brought a message of Nordic candour that is refreshingly free of Euro-waffle. The message is one of realism about defence, the level of social security spending Western democracies can afford, and the likely slow pace of reform in Russia.

Mr Ahtisaari arrives at a time of exhilaration in his sparse country. The fall of communism has liberated Finland from self-imposed restraints on its freedom to speak about at the height of the Cold War. But the word never properly described Finland. For 45 years the Finns developed a Western democracy and affluence — and a vigorous commitment to their political and cultural values — while keeping a tranquil border and sober dialogue with Moscow.

Finnish predictability was the key to good relations: the Finns were past masters at playing the game. They knew they were dealing with a dogmatic, insecure regime, where face, discretion and mutual interest were all important. In the end, it was the Finns who were the real winners: the Soviet trade underpinned their economic miracle, and Helsinki so trapped the Russians with

their boast of uniquely good relations that the Finns were able to show a bilateral toughness and political brinkmanship that was unappreciated by outsiders.

The need to keep this dialogue confined to the leaders' saunas has gone. But the lessons learnt have given Finland unique experience in dealing with Russia — and, not surprisingly, with the bureaucracy in Brussels where the Finns have applied their old experience to win their way. Mr Ahtisaari counsels caution, patience and perseverance. He demonstrated all three as the United Nations negotiator in Namibia who achieved success after 13 years. Russian reform will be an equally long haul, and on the sensitive subjects of Nato expansion, Western investment and the new threat posed by Russian nuclear nonchalance, Finland can be a candid and valuable interlocutor.

Mr Ahtisaari is also, by his visit, showing that he is now looking beyond the Nordic region. Relations with Britain are good, boosted by a healthy trade and growing Finnish investment, especially in the paper industry. Finland has, in the past four years, seen the most remarkable recovery from a profound slump. The President has a message of political and economic optimism that deserves attention in Buckingham Palace, at Downing Street and among the businessmen he will meet here in the next four days.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Integrity of broadcasting standards undermined

From the East of Scotland

Sir, ITV's recent attempt to delay the transmission of *News at Ten* by 15 minutes — to accommodate an over-length — and by their own admission a somewhat grisly — detective drama is a sharp and salutary warning of things to come in broadcasting.

On this occasion it has been thwarted (report, October 12), but the pressure in commercial television to maximise ratings at each and every point in the schedule is now relentless and is already driving out the wider responsibility to provide a full, quality broadcast service for all viewers.

The Government has already announced plans to introduce up to 18 new digital channels (report, August 11); as more, and more television services come on stream, the competition for ratings and profits will intensify further.

In that environment it seems inevitable that broadcasters will increasingly ignore, marginalise or dispose of those programme genres which fail to offer the maximum, instant, financial return. We face the dismal prospect of a superficially greater choice of channels concealing an inescapable diminution of real choice in the range of programmes on offer.

The Government is rightly eager to open new opportunities in the broadcasting market. At the same time, it should take the greatest care to ensure

that the commitment of the BBC and Channel 4 to a broad range of high-quality programmes is sustained and properly funded. They are fast emerging as the only antidote to the accelerating retreat from public service priorities so clearly signalled by ITV's persistent attempts to demote *News at Ten*.

Yours sincerely,
STOCKTON,
House of Lords,
October 12.

From Mr Alan Leaman

Sir, It is becoming more evident each day that, as we approach the next general election, we are also likely to face a new crisis of relations between broadcasters and the political parties. Only yesterday, John Prescott made public a complaint about BBC coverage of Brian Mawhinney's speech at the Conservative Party conference (report, October 11), while Dr Mawhinney himself devoted a lengthy passage of his speech that day to criticism of the *Today* programme. One is forced to the conclusion that politicians attempt to bully broadcasters because they believe that it works.

This deterioration in atmosphere is eating away at confidence in public broadcasting and adding to the low public view of politics and politicians. As John Birt, Director-General of the BBC, implied in his speech at a

dinner party during the Labour Party conference, it is now time for the broadcasters to take an initiative to reverse this trend. He should now follow up his criticism of Labour tactics with two further steps.

First, he should act to demonstrate clearly that the BBC not only claims to be fair and impartial but is determined to be so. The independence of broadcasters must be secured. Their editorial policies must be more transparent, so that justice can be seen to be done. It is not good enough for our broadcasting institutions to hide behind old codes and understandings. The public is entitled to know the basis on which important editorial decisions are taken.

Second, broadcasters must more obviously encourage individual programme-makers to reflect the wide and plural range of political and other opinion in Britain today. It is not the job of broadcasting to mimic the narrow and partisan world of Westminster, but to explore and analyse the full range of political debate. This is especially important in the run-up to what is, sadly, likely to be a bitter and negative general election campaign.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN LEAMAN
(Director, Strategy and Planning),
Liberal Democrats,
4 Cowley Street, SW1,
October 11.

Recalling Lord Home

From Mr Miles Hudson

Sir, As one who worked very closely in his political life with Lord Home of the Hirsford for more than six years, first in the Conservative Research Department and, in the early 1970s, as his political secretary in the Foreign Office, I would add two things to your obituary (October 10).

First, his all-pervading sense of humour. I hardly remember any situation over the years in which he did not find a humorous (although never vicious) element to enliven discussion and calm nerves.

Second, he and Elizabeth were a team to such an extent that one cannot really separate them in any assessment of their impact. She supported him, and he her, with total commitment and love. One could not really consider them as two separate human beings. They were one.

Yours etc,
MILES HUDSON,
The Priory Farm,
Mattingley Hook, Hampshire.

From Mr Robert Vincent

Sir, How curious that in obituaries of Lord Home many of his personal qualities which writers have found admirable should be the very same that have so long been employed in marking down John Major as uninspiring. Surely it can't be snobishness?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT VINCENT,
Dilly House,
Wildern, Andover, Hampshire.

From Mrs S. G. King

Sir, A constant theme ran through the tributes to Lord Home: "He was that rarest of things in politics — a politician whose word one can trust", and "a true gentleman".

Could this be why the majority are disillusioned by the present generation of politicians of all parties?

Yours faithfully,
GINA KING,
Cedar House, Hellingdon,
Daventry, Northamptonshire.

Verdict on Cairncross

From Mr Jacob Starkman

Sir, Bernard Levin ("The traitor's traitor", October 13) pours scorn on John Cairncross's belief that "he wasn't betraying Britain, he was only helping the sore-bested Soviet Union".

However, if there is any truth in the late spy's claim, as recorded in your obituary (October 11), that he was responsible for supplying the Russians in the last war with the dispositions of the German armour at the battle of Kursk, then surely he ought to be regarded today by the "Allied" world as a hero rather than as a spy.

Yours faithfully,
JACOB STARKMAN,
184a Kings Road, Chelsea, SW3.

From Professor Richard Hornby

Sir, I agree thoroughly with Mr Levin's view of John Cairncross and the rest of that perfidious group of spies, except for his unfair reference to E. M. Forster's remark about betraying country versus betraying friend.

Like the authors of the famous Oxford Union resolution in 1933, "This House will not fight for king and country", Forster was surely not anticipating Pearl Harbor or Auschwitz but recalling Passchendaele and the Somme.

I, along with many other Americans, resolved not to fight for "country" in the Vietnam War. It is usually a good rule of thumb, though Hitler provided the exception. The crime of Mr Cairncross & Co, however, was not avoiding fighting, but revealing their country's secrets, which is quite another matter.

Sincerely,
RICHARD HORNBY,
15 Cadogan Court,
Draycott Avenue, SW3.

Asylum-seekers

From the Leader of Camden Council

Sir, Peter Lilley's conference-raising proposals to deny benefit to asylum-seekers (report, October 12) contain no compassion. They will result in a steep rise in penniless asylum-seekers in London and other cities and increased homelessness and hardship.

How can these people survive except by charity, begging or crime? The financial burden will of course fall on councils, which have statutory responsibilities to provide them with temporary housing and support for their children.

But the root of this problem is with Mr Lilley's own Government. In London we and other boroughs have recently witnessed a significant increase in the number of asylum-seekers, many of them from Poland.

The Home Office has been unable to tell us either the grounds on which these applications are judged or the reason why decisions are often long delayed.

Meanwhile, the councils are picking up the bills. If Mr Lilley seriously wishes to save public money, he should sort out the delays and inconsistencies of his Home Office colleagues.

University pay

From the National Chairman of the Association of University and College Lecturers

Sir, Stephen Rouse, Chief Executive of the Universities and Colleges Employers' Association, asserts (letter, October 9) that vice-chancellors and college principals believe that the "massive expansion of higher education has been subsidised by staff".

This point has been emphasised in many recent publications from the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP). I would add that the quality of the students' experience and academic standards have also suffered from underfunding.

However the increase in student numbers without a commensurate increase in teaching staff, let alone any reward for those already in post, has not occurred by accident. It has been delivered by the managers of the colleges and universities, and they and the Government have taken the credit.

Mr Rouse may not know any vice-chancellors who think that higher

education is well paid, but plenty of these staff believe that the former are well rewarded. The average vice-chancellor earned £93,000 in 1994, and several in the new universities received over £100,000.

The relative success of schoolteachers in maintaining their link with average earnings compared with the decline in lecturers' pay may be explained by the greater political clout of teachers and the existence of a pay review body.

Both this association and the Association of University Teachers favour such a body to determine the pay of university academics. Two years ago a CVCP study advocated the setting up of an independent pay advisory commission. As a general election approaches has its position changed?

Yours faithfully,
HELEN BAMBER,
Director,
Medical Foundation for the
Care of Victims of Torture,
96-98 Grafton Road, NW5,
October 12.

Sir, To deny asylum-seekers benefit after the Home Office has refused their requests will condemn to destitution many of those fleeing persecution.

Many of those seen by this foundation have been refused refugee status by the Home Office but have subsequently been recognised as refugees on appeal to the courts. This process of waiting for justice to be done can take over a year. How are such people to live in the meantime?

Yours faithfully,
NEIL MACFARLANE,
National Chairman,
Association of University & College Lecturers,
104 Albert Road,
Southsea, Hampshire,
October 12.

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104 Albert Road,
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The Government must be under considerable pressure from UK scientists who have watched with intense frustration as their share of this budget diminishes. I fear their pressure may result in the UK pulling out of the ESA altogether unless the national need is satisfied.

If the benefits to the British economy of leaving the ERM are all that the Government claims, surely there is room to put some money back into the overall space science budget?

Space science is the truly noble work of ESA; however, just as with Ariane V, if we do not pay our way, we will not be allowed to join.

Yours etc,
ROBIN T. GREENWOOD,
Campton House, Rectory Lane,
Longworth, Oxfordshire,
October 11.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Libraries' need for lottery cash

From Ms Victoria Wood and others

Sir, We are right behind the library supporters who will be rallying outside Parliament on October 18 (report, October 16). In particular we support their demands that public libraries have access to National Lottery money.

Libraries are caught in a trap. They are a statutory service and therefore disqualified from applying for lottery funding, except within very narrow constraints. But local authorities, who bear the statutory responsibility, have severe restrictions imposed on capital spending and are spending far too little on libraries — there is a shortfall of over £600 million for library buildings. Any new local authority expenditure now tends to go on projects which are eligible for lottery money like sports halls or arts centres.

We believe passionately in the need for decent public libraries; we also believe they should be properly funded by those responsible for them in local or central government. But since this is not happening, lottery funding is one way out of the trap, one way to get things moving. Libraries need investment in order to stay open for longer, deliver information through the new technology and remain vibrant, up-to-date institutions.

Do we really want a society where lottery money can fund an extension to the Royal Opera House but not a public library?

Yours etc,
VICTORIA WOOD,
LINFORD CHRISTIE,
ROGER COOK,
CLARE FRANCIS,
ALEXIE SAYLE,
TOM STOPPARD,
c/o The Library Association,
7 Ridgmount Street, WC1,
October 13.

Leadership qualities

From Mr Harry Holt

Sir, As I am not "a representative of our military establishment", my authority alone may not be sufficient to lift the Reverend Nigel Biggar's spirits (letter, October 7).

But if he would like to read any history of the British and Imperial Armed Services, or visit Dartmouth, Sandhurst or Cranwell as they are today, he will quickly discover that neither colour of skin, private incomes nor public-school manners have ever been a bar to a career in the Services or holding the Queen's commission; nor are they now.

Perhaps Mr Biggar could in turn cheer me up by telling me why he thinks so few people of General Colin Powell's background have achieved the distinction of, say, a bishopric, headship of an Oxbridge college or even the dizzy heights of a college chaplaincy?

Yours faithfully,
HARRY HOLT,
Newport Castle,
Newport, Pembrokeshire,
October 7.

Anglers' choice

From Mr R. J. Simmons

Sir, A powerful field sports and pro-hunting lobby are doing all they can to suggest that Britain's four million anglers are ready to support their cause (report, October 10).

Understandably, they want to believe that so many new recruits could dissuade an incoming Labour government from introducing the anti-hunting legislation already promised.

They should take no such comfort. Fishermen, I suggest, will take the view that they can support only such field sports activities where, as in angling, the quarry is either returned unharmed to its natural habitat, or swiftly tapped on the head and taken home for the pot.

Yours sincerely,
R. J. SIMMONS,
1 Cuthbura Road,
Wimborne, Dorset,
October 10.

Clichés for our times

From Mr Tony Robinson

Sir, My secretary is about to undergo surgery using only laser technology. Since no scalpels are involved we have been unable to talk about her "going under the knife".

What would be a modern-day equivalent?

Yours faithfully,
TONY ROBINSON,
6 Clos du Berge,
1160 Brussels,
October 15.

From Mr Alan Jenkins

Sir, I was amused to hear a BBC reporter, in search of someone using a new high-tech shopping smart card, say that it was "like looking for a needle in a haystack". Needle? Haystack? As rare these days as those "tinkling cash registers" so much loved by the media.

Could we institute a search for some new images to qualify for cliché status in the future?

Yours hopefully,
ALAN JENKINS,
Kirkton of Balmerino,
Newport-on-Tay, Fife,
October 15.



COURT CIRCULAR

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

October 15: Princess Alexandra, Patron of the St Mary's Children's Fund, accompanied by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this morning met children and staff from the Jerusalem Association Children's Homes in Addis Ababa.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

October 16: The Rt Hon John Major MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of The Queen this evening.

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Silver displayed in Muncaster Castle dining room. A dinner service by Paul Storr forms the core of the sale.

Castle owners sell the family silver

By JOHN SHAW

ONE of the hardest decisions for the owners of a stately home was taken yesterday by Patrick and Phyllida Gordon-Duff-Pennington. They are to sell the family silver.

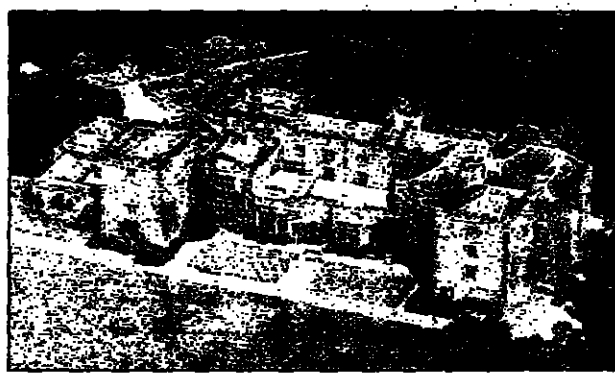
The money raised, about £750,000, will help to replace the roof at Muncaster Castle, their 84-room home in Eskdale, Cumbria. The Grade I listed building has the family's since it was built in the 13th century.

Mr Gordon-Duff-Pennington, 66, said yesterday: "I had to tell my wife she had a choice of keeping the silver or keeping the castle but she couldn't keep both. That was my wife's choice. We want to keep this alive as a family home. The visitors love to come here and see the dogs about the place and sitting on the chairs. I love to hear the

visitors' laughter when we show them round. A place like this needs to be lived in, not just looked at from behind a rope barrier."

The castle attracts 65,000-70,000 visitors a year but Mr Gordon-Duff-Pennington said the income paid only for normal repairs: "The once-in-a-100-years effort that is needed to put on a new roof cannot be funded in this way." He estimates that cost at £1.5 million and refurbishment at £600,000. The family is discussing grants with English Heritage, the Lake District National Park authority and Copeland council.

The estate was granted to Alan de Penington in 1208. The castle was built by Camel de Muncaster and Sir John Pennington gave shelter to Henry VI after the battle of Hexham



The 13th-century seat attracts 65,000 visitors a year

In 1464. The king's glass drinking bowl was left behind in gratitude and legend says that as long as it remains intact the Penningtons will live and thrive at Muncaster.

Mr Gordon-Duff-Pennington said: "My wife says that in her grandfather's time there were 25 servants in the house and 32 in the garden but naturally all that's changed now. The estate had 23,000 acres then, now it's down to 1,800 acres. My son-in-law and daughter have agreed to take it on. They're young and have the energy."

A silver dinner service from Paul Storr, one of the bluechip names of English silver, will be the core of Sotheby's sale on November 9. The auction is in two parts, with a selection of textiles going under the hammer in Bond Street tomorrow.

Richard Came, silver consultant at Sotheby's, said: "There are 35 lots but that includes dinner plates in doilies and pairs of candlesticks. Three lots are by Paul de Lankrie and 17 by Paul Storr, so a big chunk of this is Regency."

Reception

Canning House

The Duke of Kent was the guest of honour at a reception given by Canning House yesterday at Painters' Hall to mark the 50th anniversary of The Hispanic and Lusitanian Council. The Earl of Linlithgow, president, was the host.

The reception was held at the Allied Domecq, BP, ICI, Lloyds Bank, Shell, Unilever and Zeneca, and followed Canning House's autumn conference on Free Trade Area of the Americas: The way ahead after Miami.

The guests included ambassadors and representatives of Latin America, Canada, Malaysia, Portugal, Spain and the US, Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, Lord Carrington, KG, Lord Howe of Aberavon, QC, Mr Peter Brooke, C.M. Mr Tristan Garel-Jones, MP, Sir Michael Palliser, Sir Michael Perry, Mr John Jennings and many other friends of Canning House.

Curriers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Curriers' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr R.J. Seabrook; Upper Warden, Mr R.G. Blaber; Renter Warden, Mr C.S. Hughes; Junior Warden, Dr T.A.F. Norfolk.

Latest wills

Mr Ronald Ernest Utiger, of Twickenham, West London, former chairman of TUI Group and of British Aluminium, left estate valued at £740,694.

Mrs Mary Isobelle Brown, of Robertsbridge, Essex, left £1,707,481 (net).

Birthdays today

Mr George Mackay Brown

Mr George Mackay Brown, author, 74; Mr Harry Carpenter, sports commentator, 70; Mr Sydney Chapman, MP, 60; Mr Jonathan Chalkin, former Adviser to the Governor of the Bank of England, 65; Dr Alexander Cooke, physician, 96; the Earl of Dalhousie, 91; Sir Denis Dobson, QC, 81; Sir Shaun Edwards, rugby league player, 32; Lady (William) Fraser, chairman, Christian Aid, 81; Mr Alan Garner, author, 61; Sir Ralph Gibson, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 73; Sir Christopher Harding, chairman, Legal and General, 56; Mrs Ann Jones, tennis player, 57; Miss Margaret Kilday, actress, 47; Lord Kilbrack, 75; Mr Stephen Kovacevich, pianist, 55; Mr Michael Lord, MP, 57; Mr Cameron Mackintosh, musical producer, 49; Mr Arthur Miller, playwright, 80; Mr A.W. Rudge, chairman, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, 59; Mr Victor Serebrieff, president, British Menzies, 83; Mr B.D. Taylor, former chief executive, Glaxo Holdings, 60.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Alistair Conn, Rector, Colingham w South Scarle and Besthorpe w Gilton and Spalford: to be also Rural Dean of Newark (Southwell).

The Rev Annis Fessey, formerly Curate, The Lydiards: to be Priest-in-Charge, Fincham, in the parish of Penhryn, Gwynedd (Bristol).

The Rev Grahams Galloway, permission to officiate, Diocese of Ely: to be Assistant Curate, St Aidan, St Oswald and St Gregory, Small Heath (Birmingham).

The Rev David Waller, Curate, Aldwick: to be Team Vicar, Crawley (Chichester).

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy and Royal Marines

Commodore

R Howell, MOD London 22.3.95.

Captain

DJ Burns, MOD Bath 12.1.96; AL Chilton, RNSC Greenwich in the Rank of CO 15.12.95.

Lieutenant-Colonel

JQ Davis, HQM 29.3.96; JGM Dowd, HQM Concorde as CO 26.1.96.

CA Armstrong, MOD Portsmouth

12.9.95; ARC Bennett, Illustrious 13.9.95; JR Fanshawe, MOD London 12.9.95; AP Holberry, Sutherland 30.4.96; CG Hunt, RHQ Northwood 14.9.96; DM Perfect, Northwood 12.1.96; BV Statham, MOD Bath 24.9.96.

The Army

Brigadier

PDF McQueen to be Dir A Avn, 22.10.95.

Colonel

SCH Ashworth to IMS Brussels 18.10.95; BJ Fairman in HQ Wood-

with Cap 16.10.95; R Leighton to APC Teams 16.10.95; ND Ross to HQ Land 16.10.95; PE Denison to HQ AF South 16.10.95.

Lieutenant-Colonel

ND Morrison RLC to be CO 5TA Trg Regt RLC 16.10.95; U Ruff KTR to be CO 1 RTR 16.10.95; WJ REME REME 17.10.95.

Retirements

Colonel: MW Stott late RE 21.10.95.

Group Captain

SA Hickey, SHAPE 20.10.95.

Wing Commander

M Brierley, HQC Brampton 21.10.95.

Retirement

Air Commodore: MP Croy, 18.10.95.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as President, will open the new premises of the City and Guilds of London Institute, 1 Gilspur Street, ECL, at 4.00.

The Prince of Wales will attend the State Banquet in honour of the President of the Republic of Finland and Mrs Ahtisaari at Buckingham Palace at 8.00. Prince Edward and Princess Margaret will also attend.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the British School of Osteopathy, will attend the graduation ceremony at St Martin-in-the-Fields at 8.30, and will attend a reception at the British School of Osteopathy, 1-4 Suffolk Street, SW1, at 4.30.

BMDS: 0171 782 7272
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 9822
FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS

For the spirit that God gave us is no cowardly spirit, but one to battle power, love and self-discipline.
2 Timothy 1: 7 (NRSV)

BIRTHS

ALDERSON SMITH - On 15th October at the Greenwith Hospital, Cumbria, to Mr and Mrs Leigh, a son, Henry Brooks, a brother to Jim and Daniel.

CAWDELL - On 15th October at 22.00, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, Frederick William Augustus.

COOMBS - On 15th October, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, Charles Murray, a brother for Rebecca.

DE FALCO - On October 7th, to Mr and Mrs John, a daughter, Flora.

ELAD - On October 15th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

ELGAR - On October 12th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

GEORGE - On October 12th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

HOLLOD - On October 12th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

HUNT - On October 12th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

JAMES - On October 12th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

KELPATRICK - On October 10th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

KEVILL - On October 10th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

MOORE - On October 10th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

ROLLASON - On 14th October 1995, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

SAMPLE - On Saturday 14th October at Catterick Lodge (near Bancham) and Paul William Leslie, a son, Robert Francis Leslie, a brother for Philip and David.

DEATHS

SMYTH - On 13th October, at St Mary's, Kent, a son, Edward John Richard.

THOMPSON - On October 13th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

TUCKER - On October 13th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

WILSON - On October 13th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

YOUNG - On October 13th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

ZIMMERMAN - On October 13th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

ALCOCK - On October 13th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

BARNETT - On October 13th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

BROWN - On October 13th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

CLARK - On October 13th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

COOPER - On October 13th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

DODD - On October 13th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

EVANS - On October 13th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

FERGUSON - On October 13th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

GIBSON - On October 13th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

HARRIS - On October 13th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

HUGHES - On October 13th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

JONES - On October 13th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

KELLY - On October 13th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

LEWIS - On October 13th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

MARTIN - On October 13th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

MCCARTHY - On October 13th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

MILLER - On October 13th, to Mr and Mrs John, a son, John, a brother for Philip and David.

MORRIS -

OBITUARIES

HELEN VLACHOS

Helen Vlachos, Greek newspaper publisher and columnist, died on October 14 aged 83. She was born in Athens on December 18, 1911.

HELEN VLACHOS will be remembered for defiantly closing down her two newspapers, *Kathimerini* and *Messiniaki*, as well as the magazine *Elkones*, when a handful of army colonels seized power in Athens on April 21, 1967. They imposed her to resume publication but she refused to do so under censorship. She told the dictator George Papadopoulos: "Tell me what you want me not to print, but not what to print."

After describing the ruling military as "clowns" in a foreign press interview, she was placed under house arrest, but with the help of a wig and a false passport she managed to flee to London. There she conducted a vigorous campaign for the early restoration of democracy in her native country. For several years she published the *Hellenic Review*, which exposed the action of the Greek junta and solicited help for their overthrow.

She was born, as it were, in the newspaper business, inheriting *Kathimerini*, as well as her truculence, from her father, George Vlachos who died in 1951 after a turbulent career. He had been in and out of prison with extreme regularity for political reasons, and police turned up at the house so often that her Scottish nurse took to flying the Union Jack outside her room (inside the house) to keep the police from her door. Later Helen Vlachos was sent abroad to study until the age of 16. When she returned she joined the newspaper as a book-keeper.

It was in 1934, after a six-month honeymoon by slow freighter to the Far East, that she was urged by her husband to write her impressions. These were published in *Kathimerini* as travel articles. On her return to Athens she became a full-time reporter and her first major assignment was the coverage of the Berlin Olympics in 1936. During the war she served as a nurse. When the Germans occupied the country, the Vlachos family refused to sell the paper to the Germans, so her father was imprisoned.

By the end of the war she had won an amicable divorce from her first husband. Switching from nursing back to journalism and public service, she founded an organisation called "Friends of the Village" which adopted some of the poorest villages left in the



wake of the enemy evacuation. She found that the Greeks were generous about giving when they had a specific village in mind. In the first ten years of its operation, "Friends of the Village" helped some 500 Greek villages to recover from the ravages of war.

Kathimerini, meanwhile, had reappeared at the end of the war in 1945 and had become an instant success. With the first postwar issue, Vlachos emerged as a regular columnist, always on Sunday, and an additional one or two on weekdays. Her column appeared on the front page, signed with the letter "E", the Greek initial of her first name.

It was an enormously popular column, because it often told the

Greeks things about themselves that others would never dare put in print. A typical column would challenge the average Greek's concept that his race was the most intelligent in the world, by pointing out that the same Greek refused to concede any intelligence to his next-door neighbour.

In 1961, ten years after taking over *Kathimerini*, Vlachos launched an afternoon daily, *Messiniaki*, which set the pace for the Greek press by bringing the most important news from the back to the front page and introducing exciting Western-style make-up as well as the practice of sub-editing, until then unknown in Greece. In 1955 she launched a picture magazine and a pocket-book publishing

house which were very successful.

All her publications were closed on the day of the colonels' coup. After her return seven years later from self-imposed exile in London, she was elected "state deputy" on the list of the conservative New Democracy party which, under the leadership of Premier (later President) Constantine Karamanlis, restored democracy to Greece.

She found, however, that honest journalism and politics were not compatible so she gave up the latter and concentrated on *Kathimerini*, the only one of her papers to be launched again after the end of the dictatorship in 1974. But the circulation dropped and financial difficulties followed. In 1987 she decided to sell. The choice was unfortunate. The new owner was George Koskotas who, after acquiring a Greek bank on false pretences, proceeded to deplete depositors' money to finance his wide-ranging ventures.

She continued to write her column until 1990 when, because of declining health, she retired. Soon afterwards, Koskotas was indicted and after an attempt to flee to the United States, was caught, extradited and given a prison term after a trial in Athens. Although *Kathimerini* has since been taken over by a Greek shipowner and is doing well, Vlachos was deeply embittered by her misjudgment of Koskotas. An inquiry concerning her financial transactions with the discredited banker eventually led to her exoneration.

Because of her age and poor health, she was rarely seen in public in recent years, but to the more mature generations of Athenians she was still the "grand old lady" of Greek journalism, whose influence on the political fortunes of Greece had been decisive.

Her experiences with the Greek colonels were described in a volume in English with the title *Under House Arrest*, published in 1970. She also published in English, *Mosaic*, a collection of essays. She told her own story in a four-volume autobiography called *Journalistic Years - Fifty Plus*, the last volume of which appeared in 1994. She married twice, but had no children. She was survived by her second husband, Constantine Loundras, a retired navy commander who had made a career in submarines. Following her escape from the junta, he was jailed by the regime in revenge. After *Kathimerini's* rebirth in 1974, Commander Loundras took over the financial affairs of the newspaper.

HUGH CHARLES

Hugh Charles, songwriter, died on October 6 aged 88. He was born on July 24, 1907.



Hugh Charles reunited with Vera Lynn

TOGETHER with the songwriter Ross Parker, Hugh Charles wrote two of the most beloved songs in the canon of wartime music. *There'll Always be an England* and *We'll Meet Again*. In their capacity to boost the listener's morale during the bleakest days of war, these two songs might be ranked not far behind a speech by Winston Churchill.

Songwriting, according to Charles, was more of a science than an art, and a hit song, however spontaneous it appeared, came from sheer graft and the ability to target an audience. *There'll Always be an England*, for instance, with its thumping, march-like beat, was launched on the very eve of war, when fears about what lay ahead were at their height. "We decided that a patriotic type of song was needed and we set out to find one," Charles recalled. It was first performed by Billy Cotton's band in the Trocadero cinema at the Elephant and Castle, and rapidly became a hit.

We'll Meet Again, also written in 1939, was sung in its definitive throat-catching version by the young Vera Lynn soon afterwards. Although she had been singing professionally since she was a child, Lynn was not yet a star. She was brought into the office by an American songwriter, Al Hoffman, and Charles recognised that she had real talent as well as being "a very nice kid". The collaboration was an un-dreamt-of success. *We'll Meet Again* helped to establish Lynn as the Forces' Sweetheart (by comparison, *The White Cliffs of Dover* was not written until 1942 and a film of the same name was released three years later).

Charles Hugh Owen Ferry was born in Manchester, the son of a businessman who also played the organ at his local church. Hughie, as he was known, was outstanding

at sports as a boy and captain of cricket at the local John Hulme Grammar School. He turned down the offer to play for Lancashire County Cricket Club, however, for a career in music, forming his own local dance band, the Bluebirds, which played at all the big hotels in Manchester. He then joined a music publishers, and in the late 1920s was sent to run the company's London office. There he began to work as a "song plucker", selling sheet music by demonstrating songs at a piano in Denmark Street, or "Tin Pan Alley".

Charles kept the business and creative sides of his career running smoothly in tandem during the war. In 1939 he took over the running of the Irwin Dash Music Company, when Dash, an American, returned home. At the same time Hugh Charles — as he was now professionally known — was churning out songs, writing both music and lyrics. He wrote more than fifty of them during the war, with a number of partners, chief among whom was Ross Parker, who shared with him the credit for *There'll Always be an England* and *We'll Meet Again*. There were also *Blue Skies*, *As Round the Corner* (1939), *Russian Rose*

(1941), *When They Sound the Last All Clear* (1941) and *Silver Wings in the Moonlight* (1942). Charles had himself been declared unfit for active service, but he was a member of the Home Guard.

Having worked with many of the leaders of the big bands during the war, Charles teamed up with Jack Hylton at the end of the war, when Hylton decided to change careers and become a producer of West End shows. Hylton provided the financial backing, and Charles the hands-on management skills, for numerous extravaganzas: Cole Porter's *Kiss Me Kate*, Irving Berlin's *Call Me Madam*, and a blockbuster about Borodin called *Kismet*. In 1955 Hylton spotted the 18-year-old Shirley Bassey singing in cabaret, and he and Charles encouraged her, giving her a chance to make her debut at the Adelphi when another singer fell ill.

He finally retired to Heathfield, Sussex, in the 1970s and gave up music, although he received a lifetime achievement award from the Songwriters Guild in 1980. He is survived by his third wife, Joan Mann, formerly a musical comedy actress, and by three sons from his first marriage.

HENRY ROTH

Henry Roth, American novelist and short-story writer, died on October 13 aged 89. He was born on February 8, 1906.

AS FAMOUS for his agonising case of writer's block as he was for the dazzling virtuosity of his prose, Henry Roth allowed sixty years to elapse between the publication of his two literary masterpieces.

In the interim period many readers already supposed him dead. His first novel, *Call It Sleep* (1934), an exquisitely sensitive evocation of immigrant life in New York City seen through the innocent eyes of a Jewish boy, is one of

fiction's deepest evocations of a child's sensibilities. Irving Howe praised it in *The New York Times* as "an obligato of lyricism such as few American novels can match".

But it seemed that the sheer weight of achievement and psychological anguish muted Roth. He lapsed into long years of literary silence and it was only with the onset of old age that, fighting not only mental distress but also the cruel physical debilitations of progressive rheumatoid arthritis, he wrote *Mercy of a Rude Stream*, a series of six semi-autobiographical novels which returned to the subject of a young Jewish immigrant and the problems of self-identity. To his admirers it

was amazing — like hearing that J.D. Salinger was preparing a sequel to *Catcher in the Rye*.

Roth's descriptions of the bitter struggles of immigrants, haunted by their sense of loss and isolation, were rooted in his own experience. He was born in the town of Tysmenica, in what was then the Austro-Hungarian Empire (and is now part of Ukraine), but when he was a small child his parents moved to New York. They settled first in Brooklyn and then in Manhattan's Lower East Side, a neighbourhood which Roth was later to describe as "a virtual Jewish mini-state". Yiddish was spoken everywhere and, he said, there was

no more difference between himself and his young companions than there was "between one drop of water and another". It was only when his parents moved once again, in 1914 to an Irish and Italian neighbourhood in Harlem that he felt that sense of isolation which is reflected in the experiences of David Scheer, the child protagonist of *Call It Sleep*.

Roth was educated first at De Witt Clinton High School and then at the City College of New York. Here he was taught by Eda Lou Walton, a poet, critic and academic who was at the heart of a literary circle which included Hart Crane, Kenneth Burke and Leonie Adams. Twelve years

his senior, it was Walton who gave him his first encouragement to write. She became, as Roth was later to put it, "both a mistress and a mother", and in 1929 he moved into her apartment in Greenwich Village. Convinced of his genius, she supported him financially while he, dressed in the fine English tweeds she had bought him, nuzzled with *Call It Sleep* which he dedicated to her. He also taught himself Greek, Latin, German and Italian to the extent that he could eventually read Homer and Dante. In 1934 *Call It Sleep* was published by Robert Ballou.

With the aid of an advance from Maxwell Perkins, the perceptive Scribner publisher famous for his editing of the novels of Thomas Wolfe, Roth embarked on a second novel, but Marxism fell across his career "like a giant shunt". Roth had joined the Communist Party in 1930. Yet, despite a firm commitment to its cause, the soaring imagination and visionary lyricism of his first novel had been far from the bleak realism of the proletarian fiction being produced at that time. Capitalist critics had praised him, but *The New Masses*, a Communist journal, had rebuked him for his feeble introspection.

Accordingly, when it seemed Roth's most natural course would have been to pursue his childish protagonist's journey to maturity, he instead committed artistic suicide and embarked on a proletarian work of fiction which was to tell the story of a worker who loses an arm in an industrial accident and becomes a communist organiser.

In researching this novel, Roth spent much time with the longshoremen on the New York waterfront. One day,

while distributing leaflets, he was badly beaten up by a gang of suspicious dockers. It was not the physical bruises of this encounter which damaged him, but the mental dislocation which he felt. He realised, as he later said, that he could not subordinate his "detached imagination" to his own radical passions. "A setback like that for a guy like me, it's enough to shut him up indefinitely." Weeks of creative inactivity passed into months. All but the opening section of the book was burnt. From this time on, Roth's impulse to write lay dormant.

In 1938 Roth ended his dependent affair with Walton, married a woman named Muriel Parker at Yaddo, the artists' colony in Saratoga Springs. She was a composer. In 1939 they got married, and Roth embarked on a series of "plebeian" jobs that would occupy him for the next three decades. He worked as a teacher in the city, as a precision tool-grinder (during the war) and as a firefighter. He collected sap for maple syrup, raked blueberries for canning companies, and cut pulp wood. In 1949 he moved to Maine where he worked as a nurse in a mental hospital. "I sometimes wondered who should have the keys to the wards, me or the patients," he said.

In 1952 Roth bought a smallholding at Augusta, Maine, where he raised ducks and geese, supplementing the meagre income earned from the sale of their meat and feathers by giving private tuition in mathematics and Latin. His wife became the principal of the local elementary school.

Then in the early 1960s, 30 years after the original publication of *Call It Sleep*, critical



interest was rekindled by a paperback reissue of the novel by the small press, Pageant Books. It sold more than one million copies. Roth, who had grown accustomed to living "like an average guy" felt "dislocated" again, and in his unease picked up his pen. During the next few years he published five of his short stories. He even considered screenwriting, but one producer to whom he showed *Call It Sleep* told him to shove it back across the table with a riding crop.

In the end it was the Arab-Israeli war of 1967 which was to have a profound impact on him. Any residual allegiance he felt for the Communist Party evaporated when the party supported the Arabs. Feeling as though he personally was under attack, he sensed himself "heading back to being a Jew" — not in a religious sense, he explained, but in a sense in which he felt "a rational reunion with the Judaism of his earliest self".

The success of the republication of *Call It Sleep* allowed the Roths to leave Maine. They settled in the "gritty" town of Albuquerque in New

Mexico in a mobile home, where Roth began to write again and his wife to compose — he working at one end of the single 60ft room and his wife at the other. In 1979 he began the vast project of lightly fictionalised autobiographical fiction which was to become in 1994 *Mercy of a Rude Stream*. The title was taken from Shakespeare's *Henry VIII* where it refers to the fall of a once proud king from the heights of public attention into the depths of emotional turmoil. But when it was suggested to Roth that this reflected his own life he would, with typical self-effacement, disclaim any greatness and retreat behind his thick spectacles.

Over the next decade Roth struggled against the pain of his arthritis to produce some 3,200 pages of this series of six related novels. He intended it for posthumous publication, but with the death of many of the people he was writing about, including his wife in 1990, he felt that this no longer mattered.

After his wife's death Roth moved to a retirement home, but soon found it intolerable. He bought a rambling white stucco house which he shared with Felicia Steele, a young graduate who became his secretary, and her boyfriend, a computer technician, who taught him how to use a computer when the pain in his arthritic knuckles prevented him from typing. Roth depended on drugs to ease this pain, although sometimes even the gentle resistance of the computer keys became unbearable. But after 60 years of silence Roth spent the last years of his life battling valiantly to keep on writing.

Roth is survived by two sons.

PERSONAL COLUMN

FLATSHARE
WEST KENSINGTON Period
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The Timberjack harvester processes trees ruthlessly. Finnish forests cover more than the total land mass of Britain

Pulp friction solved.

Michael Knipe on how foresters
are answering the green lobby

The gleaming computer-guided cutting head of the Timberjack mechanical harvester sliced through the trunk of the 70ft-high birch tree. But instead of the felled trunk crashing into the surrounding undergrowth, it was firmly gripped by the machine's robotic arm, turned horizontally with scarcely a pause, and the branches and leaves scooped away. Then the bare trunk was efficiently cut into pre-programmed lengths and deposited on to a pile of other logs.

No matter how environmentally justified the process, the sight of an 80-year-old tree being cut down is likely to prick even the most latent conservationist conscience, particularly when it is done with such ruthlessly computerised efficiency.

Pekka Timperi, the self-employed lumberjack who owns the £500,000 harvester, reckons that on a good day he will fell 700 birch, spruce or pine trees. Within a week those logs are likely to have

become paper and within a month that paper is likely to be newsprint.

The increasing size of newspapers has heightened international environmental concern about the vast tonnage of trees being felled to meet the demand for paper products. Nowhere is the debate more rigorous between environmentalists and the timber industry than in Finland, which, although having only half a per cent of the world's forest resources, provides the timber for a quarter of the world's paper products.

The forest, said one Finnish writer, shapes Finland's identity and its values. It dominates the landscape, and underpins the economy. Two thirds of its surface—about 20 million hectares—is covered by forests, more than the total land area of Great Britain. Two thirds of the forested land is privately owned. More than

400,000 Finns own a plot of forest and everyone has the right of access.

"We are forest people," says Jari Köhler, the managing director of the Finnish Forest Industries Federation. "The forests are our security and our livelihood."

The management of this inestimable natural resource has not always been of the best. At times, when the standard of living in Finland was low, the forests suffered from excessive felling.

But today, with timber products accounting for one third of the total value of Finnish exports, the need to protect the forests and maintain their sustainability is well recognised.

The environmental debate used to be about the industrial effluence produced by the timber industry, but over the past ten years, as a result of a heavy programme of invest-

ment, polluted emissions into lakes and rivers have been diminished to a tenth of what they were.

With that battle over, environmental concern now centres largely on the management of forests. Here too, no doubt owing at least partly to the pressure from the conservationist lobby, the Finns appear to be on top of things.

They point proudly to the fact that trees are growing faster than they are being felled. Every year about 60 million cubic metres of forest is harvested while more than 88 million cubic metres is grown.

And, together with Norway and Sweden, the Finns are pursuing a programme to create an effective environmental labelling system that would inform consumers that the wood product they were buying originated in sustainably managed forests. The hope is to devise a system of certification that will cover the entire chain of forest products.

Political gold in a rainbow

Olli Kivinen on Finland's unusual
multi-hued coalition government

Paavo Lipponen, leader of Finland's biggest party, the Social Democrats, quickly gained the nickname Moses after becoming Prime Minister last spring. His towering figure and contemplative speaking style contrasted sharply with his glib predecessor, Esko Ahko.

Mr Lipponen's tough, even punishing policies aimed at lifting the country out of the deepest recession since the Second World War have, however, gained much popularity, indicating that Finland appreciates a leader and a coalition government dedicated to guiding the country out of the wilderness.

Mr Lipponen's coalition is unusual even by Finnish standards. Coalitions are a must in a country where a strictly proportional representation election system makes it virtually impossible for any party to gain an overall majority in the Eduskunta, Finland's single-chamber Parliament.

The opportunity arose as a result of the ousting of Esko Ahko's Centre (formerly Agrarian) Party from the government. In the past the Centre Party had been able to use its centrist position to gain entry to almost all coalitions and to look after the interests of the farmers in a very efficient manner. Mr Lipponen concentrated on uniting the Left and the Right as well as the Greens into his rainbow coalition of Social Democrats, the Conservatives, Left Alliance (which includes former Communists), the Greens, and the Swedish People's Party representing the Swedish minority.

Most pundits were sceptical because the steep cuts in public spending and public debt required to fulfil European Monetary Union criteria would demand big concessions, which are especially difficult for the Left Alliance and the Greens to swallow. The opposition, led by the Centre Party, accused the government of driving too hard to

be the best pupil in the class when EMU candidates are assessed in two years' time.

The first six months have shown that the rainbow coalition functions astonishingly well. Even the Greens, who are setting an international precedent by being in government for the first time, have towed the line. So have the Left Alliance, even though their predecessors, the Communists and left-wing socialists, would have abhorred many of the coalition's policies.

Mr Lipponen gained an important victory last month when he was able to cajole the trade unions and the employers' organisation into a two-year wage agreement, which allows pay rises of first 1.7 per cent and then 2 per cent over two years. This has helped to keep inflation very low at roughly 1.5 per cent this year.

The agreement increased confidence in Finland's economic policies and strengthened the market. Unemployment remains, however, the real testing ground of the coalition.

The government partners have vowed to cut the 17 per cent unemployment rate by half during the four-year term of office, but most observers agree that that goal is almost impossible to achieve. The figure has fallen from the record 20 per cent last year, but the fall is far too slow.

In the long term this may make it very difficult for the Left Alliance to remain in the government.

There is only one consolation. Almost all women work outside the home and this means that the total workforce is very large by European standards. Unemployment is, however, very expensive for the country, and the government debt has surged to roughly 64 per cent of the GDP. That is not very high in itself, and the rise is expected to peak next year, but the rapid growth of the debt in only a few years was a major cause for concern.

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Looking both ways in Europe

Michael Kupe on the country that truly bridges the gap between East and West

Seldom can a state visit to Britain have been more propitiously timed than that of President Martti Ahtisaari of Finland, who arrives in London today — the first anniversary of the referendum in which the Finns voted to join the European Union. It comes at the end of a year in which they elected a new and more cohesive Government — and, most particularly, when the country's economy has revived spectacularly after the worst slump suffered by any European state since the 1930s.

Finland experienced a particularly devastating double blow between 1990 and 1993, with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the world slide into recession. About 20 per cent of its foreign trade was with its large communist neighbour, and the combination of the downturn in international trade and the economic chaos in the communist empire caused Finnish output to shrink by an unprecedented 13 per cent. Bankruptcies, mergers and a massive unemployment rise resulted.

Yet for each of the past two years the Finnish economy, propelled by vigorous exports, has grown by 5 per cent. Similar growth is expected this year and inflation has been kept down to 1.5 per cent. Nokia, the mobile-phone maker and flagship of the Finnish electronics industry, has increased its turnover by a third and doubled its profits. Valmet, the world's leading paper-machine maker, has seen its share of the global market reach 30 per cent and doubled its business with Asia. And IVO, the power generating group which is building a 750 megawatt gas turbine power station on Humberbank, has increased its foreign turnover by half.

Until now, our economic recovery has relied on the strong performance of our exports but it is now becoming more broadly based," says Johnny Akerholm, director-general of the Ministry of Finance. "Manufacturing increased by 20 per cent last year, 67 per cent this year and is forecast to increase by 40 per cent next year."

Today, the mood of optimism and of "belonging" to Europe is almost palpable in Helsinki as the Finns adapt to the benefits of being part of

the European Union rather than an isolated and vulnerable buffer state between the Western nations and the Soviet bloc.

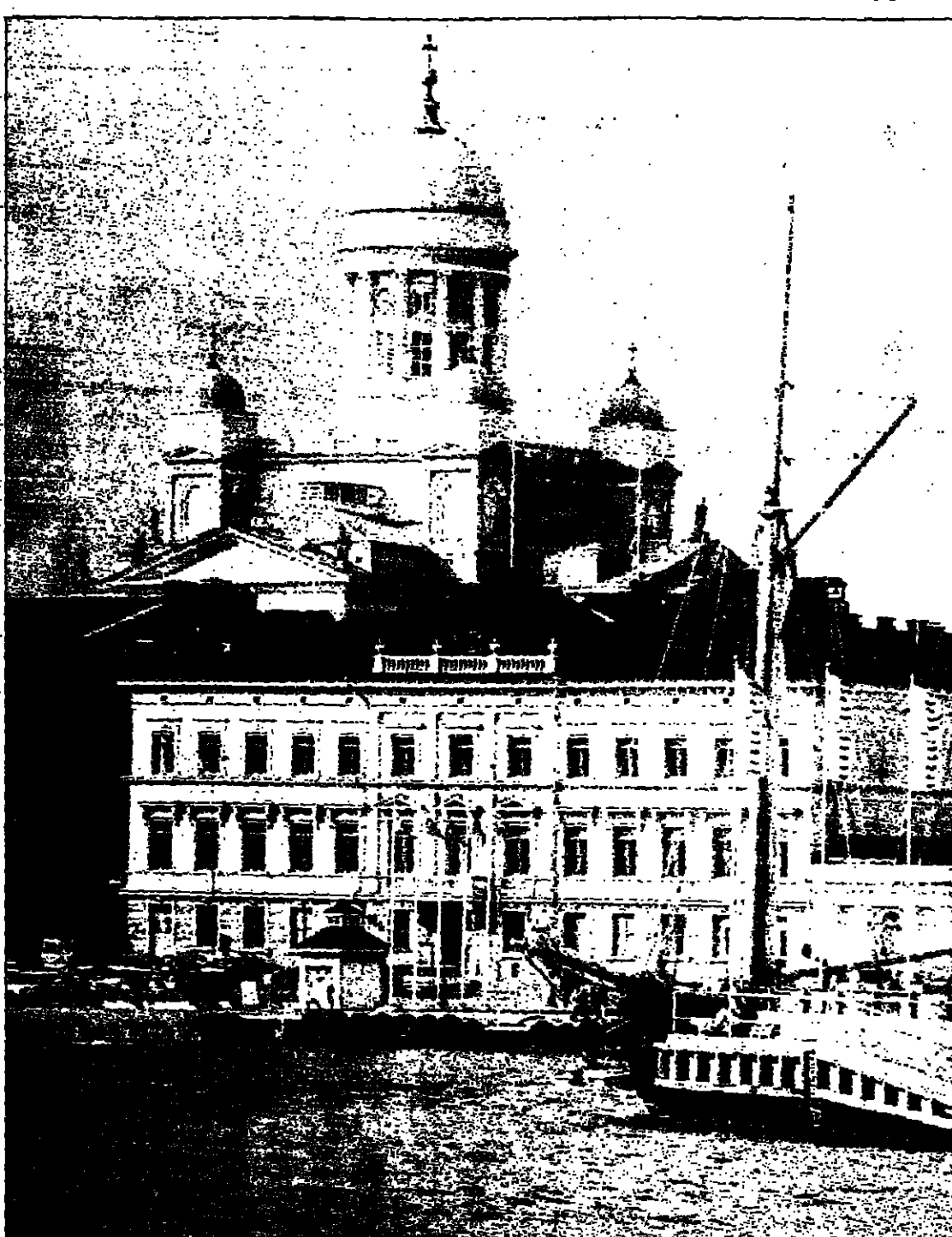
It is the only one of the European Union member-states which has a common border with Russia. This, and its proximity to the Baltic states, gives it access to a potential market of 100 million consumers. "It may take a generation before commercial order returns to Russia but for sure it will do so. And when it does Finland will still be the natural gateway for Western trade and investment," said one industrialist.

Finnish industrialists and businessmen believe that their long experience of trading with the Russians makes them invaluable partners for international companies hoping to gain a foothold in a little-known and uncertain trading terrain. This is a status that they are keen to propagate while at the same time integrating themselves into the fabric of Western partnerships.

Since taking office in March last year President Ahtisaari has travelled almost incessantly, making more than 30 official visits abroad to wave the national flag in the capitals of the world, and it is regarded as particularly fitting that the anniversary of the decision to join the EU should be marked with the formality of a state visit to London.

"Even in Europe we are not a well known country," says Pirkko Lammi, chief economist at the Confederation of Finnish Industry and Employers. "It is important that our President is prepared to travel widely and to take a group of industrialists with him to promote trade."

The Finns are keen to make effective use of their newly acquired membership of the EU, and a key element of the visit to London will be to explore, with their British counterparts, their respective positions on European matters. "You may find us on your side on a number of big European issues," said Matti Pullinen, the deputy director general at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "but we won't want to isolate ourselves on the main questions."



Helsinki harbour: a vigorous export trade is boosting the Finnish economy by 5 per cent a year

Unlike their neighbours the Swedes, the Finns have few doubts about the advantages of EU membership. While the Swedes were expressing their displeasure with the EU at the ballot box last month, opinion polls in Finland showed that enthusiasm for EU membership had increased substantially.

An immediate and valuable benefit has been the impact on food prices which, in the past 12 months have dropped by 8 per cent. But this reduction in the cost of living is outweighed by the sense of security that membership has brought about.

Finland, which has a population of five million in a country half as big again as Britain, attained independence only in 1917 after centuries of domination by either Sweden or

Russia. Since then the shadow of Russia has continued to loom large. During the Cold War Finland had to evolve its own sophisticated form of neutrality. This involved signing a treaty of friendship, co-operation and mutual assistance with Moscow while developing close political and economic links with the West.

It was an uncomfortable neutrality in which the Finns had to balance their instinctive cultural and economic ties with the West against their need for pragmatic trading and political relations with the Soviet Union.

Now however, the Finns are confident that that experience has equipped them most suitably to deal with their troubled neighbour as it

struggles to find its democratic and freemarket feet.

Already, because of the poor facilities at Russian ports, bulk goods are being unloaded at Finnish harbours and transported by road into Russia. "We are the only country that can ensure 24-hour delivery time into Moscow," says Nils-Christiaan Berg, chief executive of the Invest in Finland Bureau.

Even with the security of their membership of the EU, the Finns are not losing sight of the importance of their relations with the giant to the east. "Russia is weak for the moment," says Mr Berg. "But it is huge and its resources are such that everyone will have to reckon with it eventually — and Russia knows this. That is part of its strength."

The President's visit coincides with a growing national self-confidence, says Michael Binyon

A meeting of two old friends

President Martti Ahtisaari brings three messages with him to London as he begins his state visit. The first, naturally, is one of goodwill from Finland — a friendly, reliable Nordic partner for whom Britain is the second largest export market.

The President, a fluent English speaker, will also bring his personal good wishes to Britain's political and diplomatic establishment, with whom he worked very closely

during his 13 patient years as the United Nations negotiator in Namibia.

The second message is one of enthusiasm from one of the Europe Union's newest members to an older member increasingly disillusioned with its continental partners. Finland, liberated from the restraints of being a lonely

neighbour of Russia on the edge of Europe, is experiencing a wave of popular support for the new European club it joined in January.

The third area where Mr Ahtisaari will find a ready audience in Downing Street and at Buckingham Palace is Finland's unparalleled experience in doing business with

the Russians. His counsel will be one of patience and perseverance: the Russians, he insists, will not become democrats overnight, but they are moving in the right direction and need support.

Mr Ahtisaari gave warning in an interview with *The Times*, however, that the Russians must be told that arbitrary rules, capricious new taxes and a lack of law will scare away Western investors.

Good neighbourliness meant defending Finland's interests but not despairing in the face of the huge challenges — ecological, nuclear and political — on its 900-mile eastern border.

Mr Ahtisaari cited his own long search for a Namibian settlement as the model of patience the West needed in

outcome of the EU Inter-Governmental Conference, where Finland was already finding it could influence the debate. He insisted, in contrast to Britain, that being part of the process in European integration, would always give his country a bigger say than staying on the sidelines.

Mr Ahtisaari admitted that

his Government needed to bring the EU closer to its citizens before alienation set in. But he said his country was now better able to "clarify" its policies, look further afield and work out with Britain, Nordic neighbours and other UN partners new development policies, an area close to his own heart. He was not over-optimistic, he believed. But he comes to Britain at a time when Finland feels more confident in its identity, future and world role than for years.

A chance for the exporters

Britain may be ignoring growing business opportunities

Although trade between Britain and Finland has increased substantially in the past two years, Finnish traders and industrialists question whether their British counterparts are making the most of the opportunities becoming available. Michael Kupe writes.

Finland's membership of the European Union has opened its market to imports significantly, and given the country's economic resurgence and its strategic location, the Finns believe there are opportunities for boosting bilateral industrial and commercial links with Britain that are not being exploited.

"There is a distinct lack of British investment in Finland and we would certainly like to see more of it," said Jari Kohler, the managing director of the Finnish Forest Industries Federation, who is a member of President Ahtisaari's delegation to London. His words were echoed by others. "There are many opportunities for co-operation, particularly with regard to our proximity to the Baltic states and the western and northwestern parts of Russia," said Matti

Vuorio, secretary-general of the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

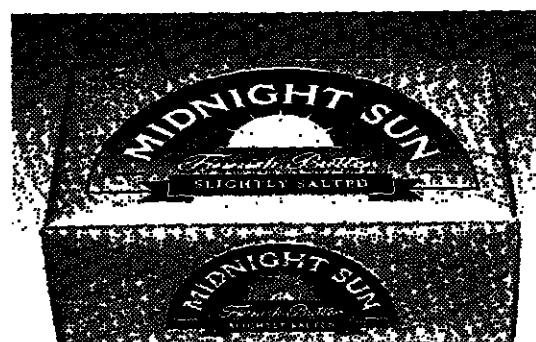
In the first six months of this year, 650 new foreign companies invested directly in Finland, said Nils-Christiaan Berg, the chief executive of the Invest in Finland Bureau. Many of them were American and many Swedish but only a few were from Britain.

The Finns regard the Anglo-Finnish connection highly. Before the Second World War and for 25 years afterwards, Britain was their chief trading partner. Then, in the 1970s, the Swedes, Germans and the Soviet Union forged ahead.

Finland is Britain's 22nd largest export market and last year exports increased by 14 per cent to £1,297 million, while imports from Finland to the UK reached £2,253 million, a rise of more than 18 per cent.

The sectors regarded as particularly promising for British exporters are automotive components, clothing and footwear, telecommunications equipment, electronic components, food and drink, graphic design and shipbuilding.

Midnight Sun Rising Again



Finnish Midnight Sun Butter

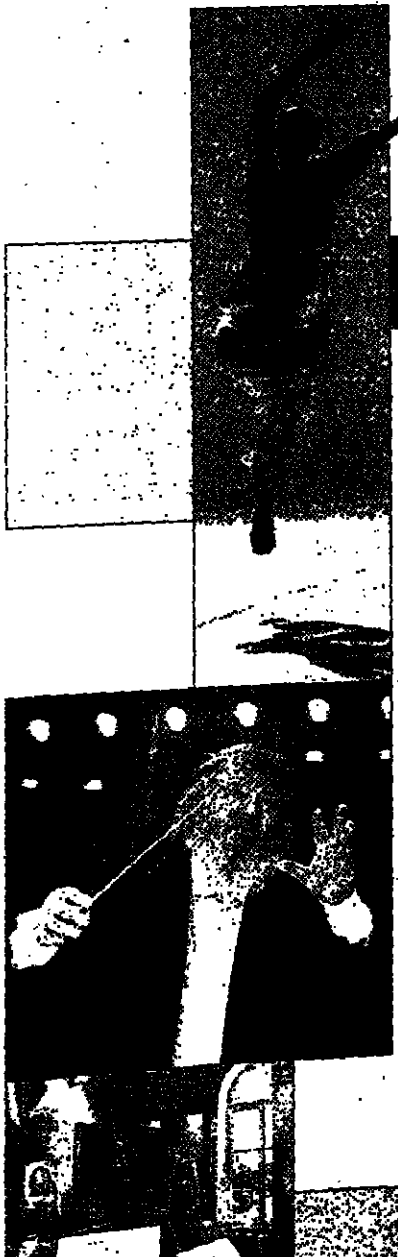
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Ahtisaari: good wishes

dealing with Moscow. But he warned against disillusion, the insistence on seeing quick change in Russia and unintentional slipping back into old Cold War patterns. "We here realise the dramatic changes more than others. We want to help others help the process."

Nevertheless, Finland, ever the realist about Russian sensitivities, saw no need to join Nato, and questioned whether expanded membership would bring greater European security. Mr Ahtisaari also played down talk of turning the Western European Union, in which it is an observer, into the EU defence arm. It was not a pressing problem, and in any case Finland, on principle, would not accept a "free ride" — whether under Nato's nuclear umbrella, or in the EU.

He insisted that Finland's overall belief in co-operation and dialogue had not changed, and, in the Russian case, had been vindicated. He was also sanguine on the

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Value for money proves the key to Chelsea defender's successful ITF side

Clarke finds right balance thanks to budget control

Give a player £35 million with which to go shopping and what does he do? Judging by some of the players' teams in Interactive Team Football (ITF), the answer is not much. Steve Clarke of Chelsea, however, seems to have hit on a winning formula from the start.

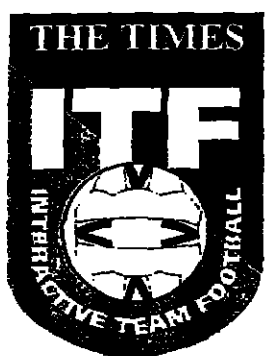
The Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) have backed ITF and encouraged the Premiership players to enter the game. They are playing for a £5,000 prize which will go to the Players' Benevolent Fund. Of all the players featured so far in *The Times*, Clarke is the likeliest contender for that prize with a total of 133 points. That puts him in second place in the Players' league and ranks him 3,302nd in the overall table of more than 200,000 ITF contestants.

"As the PFA rep at Chelsea I thought I had better go in for the ITF", Clarke said. "I got a group of the lads together and we all sat down one afternoon to see what we could do. It was all just a bit of fun, so I'm quite surprised to be doing so well so soon."

"It sounds great, having all this money to spend, but there's a lot of chopping and changing when you try to stay within the budget. If you go just a little bit over the £35 million you find you have to change two or three players to make the figures add up."

Although it is only a game, dishing out cash in large amounts in return for a player you hope — but cannot know — will be a winning purchase still sends a shiver down the spine. "When you compare them to real prices, the cost of the ITF players isn't too bad," Clarke said.

"These days, with the state of the transfer market if you want a striker you've got to spend £6, £7, or £8 million on him. The big prices are all right provided the money stays within the game, but when clubs start spending huge amounts on foreign players the money leaves the Premiership and the league."



IN ASSOCIATION WITH



CLARKE'S TEAM

Goalkeeper: D Seaman (Arsenal)	£5.0m
Full back: N Cox (Middlesbrough)	£1.0m
R. Sedge (Sheff Wed)	£2.5m
Centre back: T Adams (Arsenal)	£4.5m
D. Wright (Everton)	£2.5m
Middlefield: A. Ince (QPR)	£1.5m
T. Taylor (Coventry)	£1.5m
B. Home (Everton)	£1.5m
M. Pennington (Sheff Wed)	£1.5m
Strikers: A. Shearer (Blackburn)	£10.0m
J. Hendrie (Middlesbrough)	£1.5m
Manager: G. Hoddle (Chelsea)	£2.5m

"The top clubs all seem to be competing with each other's bank balances. The Newcastle, Manchester Uniteds and Blackburns all seem to have that bit extra to spend and the way things are going the Premiership is going to move further and further away from the Endless League."

Clarke is Scottish-born and knows all too well the importance of keeping a tight grip on the purse strings. He chose to build his team around two basic elements — goal scoring potential and solid defence. He was willing to spend money but not to waste it. "From the start I knew I wanted Alan Shearer in my side", he said. "He's a known goalscorer and

although he cost £10 million he was always going to be in."

"I also knew that Arsenal were a good side defensively and I wanted to make the most of that, which is why I picked Tony Adams and David Seaman. Looking at the points they have earned already, it was a good choice."

In fact, of Clarke's 11 players, only one has cost him points — Richard Edgill of Manchester City. "Manchester City have had an incredibly poor start to the season that it stands to reason a defender playing for them is not going to be up among the top points winners," he said. "But, putting disappointments aside, the real bonus for me has been Middlesbrough doing as well as they have. I picked Neil Cox, the former Aston Villa player, at £1 million because he looks value for money and has done very well. I watched him on Sunday and he looked good coming forward too, so he seems to have been a really good buy."

One purchase Clarke missed was Tony Yeboah. The Leeds striker may not feature in his ITF squad, but Clarke knows a good thing when he sees it. "I think he deserves double points for every goal he scores", Clarke said. "He's been fantastic so far. He has such power in both feet and even though he says his right foot is the weaker one, that's the one doing all the damage. It's great to watch him in that form but I'm not so sure it would be great to be on the receiving end."

But Clarke is none too disappointed with his own attack led by Shearer. Another goal against Southampton has taken the England striker's total to 12 and helped Clarke's challenge on the players' title. "Shearer has done well but Blackburn have had a terrible start", he said.

"What they achieved last year was magnificent but it's always easier to get to the top than it is to stay there. Liverpool managed it for years but that doesn't mean it's easy. Blackburn are going to have to dig deep to do it again but they are a fighting side — they battled their way to the top last year — and there is a long way to go in the Premiership yet."

One source of points for Clarke has come in the shape of his manager, Glenn Hoddle. "We've made a reasonable start and the boss has done quite well for me. I must remember to give him a pat on the back when I next see him."



Steve Clarke, the PFA representative of Chelsea, used his contacts within the game to make his ITF selections

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All FA Carling Premiership and FA Cup matches in the 1995-96 season count for points. Every goal and penalty counts

POINTS SCORED		POINTS DEDUCTED	
Goalkeeper	4pts	Striker	2pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Scores goal	2pts
Scores goal	3pts	All players	1pt
Full back/Central defender	3pts	Appearance	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Manager	3pts
Scores goal	3pts	Team wins	3pts
Middlefield player	1pt	Team draws	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	2pts		
Scores goal	2pts		
Goalkeeper	2pts	Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	2pts	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender	1pt	Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Scores own goal	1pt
All players	3pts	Manager	1pt
Sent off	3pts	Team loses	1pt

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
1 must have played for 45 minutes in the match



HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 333 331

Calls will be charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate, 49p per minute at other times)

If calling from the Republic of Ireland, call 004 699 020 0031

You can make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN, which must be kept in a safe and not spoken. Follow the simple instructions and use the players' three-digit codes.

The line is open from 8am on Tuesday until 11am on Saturday, from 8pm on Sunday to 11am on Sunday and from 8pm on Sunday until 3pm on Monday. If there are midweek matches, the line will also close at 3pm on the day of the match (or matches) and re-open the following day at 8am.

You may make up to (but no more than) two transfers a week. Each transfer is a separate transaction and you must sell a player before you can buy one.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category, for example a full back for a full back.

When purchasing a player you must ensure that the team value will fall within your £35 million budget (even if your last transfer would result in any overspending) and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The score of the player transferred out is taken at the time of transfer; he then ceases to score for you.

Player's PIN: _____

Club: _____

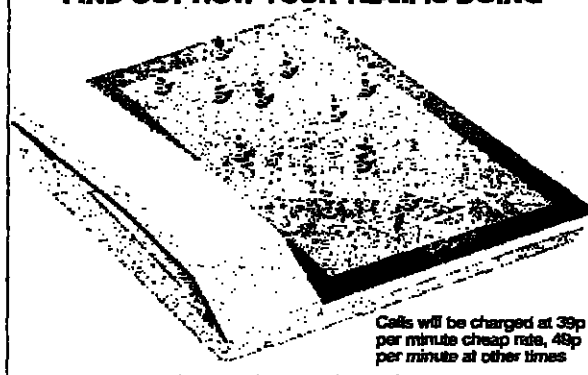
THE WEEK'S TRANSFERS IN ITF

Code	Player	IN	Club	Value
42007	W Burnard		Sutton Wanderers	£2.5m
41411	M Hughes		West Ham	£2.0m
Code	Player	OUT	Club	Value
40108	L Makiel		Blackburn	£0.5m

THE LEADING 250 SELECTORS IN INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pts	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Kevin's Kickers	(K James)	189
2	Burnell United	(R Barnham)	184
3	Nights Right Foot	(Mr D Patel)	182
4	Seaside Strikers 4	(Mr A Nodden)	181
5	Twilight United	(P C Dillworth)	179
6	The Subjugators	(M P Ayres)	179
7	Jones Boys Six	(M Jones)	179
8	Luton's Longshots	(C Luton)	178
9	Reckless Strikers	(P Sutton)	177
10	Triple Peppers	(J Hetherford)	176
11	Medford Knights	(R Jamieson)	175
12	Stevens Lions 5	(S Brewer)	174
13	Supervillains	(R Hassell)	172
14	Physic TV	(T Vardy)	172
15	Tommy Cockles XI	(Mr P Johnson)	172
16	Inertia	(S Dally)	171
17	Wendy Wanderers	(S Whalley)	171
18	Belfast Rangers	(Mr D Crowe)	171
19	Harrington Inter	(Mr D Lovell)	170
20	Mighty Men 1	(C Marshall)	170
21	Physico And Smith	(K Booth)	170
22	Edgemoor United	(R Edmondson)	169
23	Born In Tashkent	(D M McElshon)	169
24	Becky Babes	(R Eady)	169
25	Mean Machine	(Ramesh Patel)	168
26	Nanou	(G Bahadur)	168
27	No Defence Ok	(J Portwood)	168
28	My Cat Bailey	(Mr P Johnson)	168
29	Gothic Gods 65	(Mr S Gohil)	168
30	Fergie Fury	(P Simpson)	168
31	Teddy Five	(Mr B Bear)	168
32	Kid Ltd	(R Patterson)	167
33	Jeasmond 1880	(S Murray)	167
34	The Cutting Edge	(Mr A Weston)	167
35	The Black Knights	(R Green)	167
36	Wentworth Mists	(C Lang)	167
37	Bassett's Bouncers	(J Hurd)	167
38	No Hoppers	(S Harris)	167
39	Severn Legal	(M Moore)	166
40	Gary Pearce	(G D Pearce)	166
41	Glor In The Dark	(J Smith)	166
42	Tunde United	(Dr T Adetunji)	166
43	Formby Flyers	(A Norriss)	166
44	Gothic Gods 34	(Mr R Gohil)	166
45	Dreamer Fifth	(Mr G Wesson)	166
46	Scud 4	(P Hynes)	165
47	Waters Wanderers	(Waters Wanderers)	165
48	A Team	(A James)	165
49	The Premier Raiders 1	(Miss C Ellis)	165
50	Dirty Boogers	(G Fallofield)	165
51	Tyros Black Hooves	(Mr S Ty)	165
52	AP's Allstars	(A Hancock)	165
53	Not Got A Chance	(M Clark)	165
54	The Evil Eyes	(D Collier)	165
55	Oh Nicksy Evans	(Mr P Johnson)	165
56	Gara's Hotshots	(S Anderson)	165
57	Nigma	(M Morgan)	164
58	Ohne	(R Matthews)	164
59	Hope FC	(M Bette)	164
60	The Conjurors	(Mr D Farmer)	164
61	PSV Belmont	(L A McCole)	164
62	Oh There It Is!	(P Jones)	164
63	Stevens Lions 7	(L Brown)	163
64	Andy's Athletics	(S Brewer)	163
65	Chach Association	(A Howes)	163
66	Team Pulesto	(A Bahadur)	163
67	Stirling Villains	(S Anderson)	163
68	Midlife Pathetic	(M Sadie)	163
69	Newcastle Browns 2	(Mrs J A Granger)	163

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Call the ITF hotline on 0891 774 796

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. The line is open from noon each day.

63	Fingers Crossed	(C Poppleton)	163
64	Mass Marvels	(Max Watson)	162
65	Nookies Beers	(P Harris)	162
66	The Doug Hethers	(S Cozart)	162
67	Sharon's Buds	(M Stuart)	162
68	Wolves Of Farnie	(Mr D Conroy)	162
69	Fair Fair Flapstar	(S Adamson)	162
70	Herry Hills	(C Woodward)	162
71	Pig In A Pole	(Mr T Thompson)	162
72	P S D Evers	(Mr J Waters)	162
73	The Good Bad & Ugly	(P Dean)	162
74	Razor's Raiders	(K Booth)	162
75	Rapid Overton	(R Knowles)	162
76	Sunderland Stars	(A Overton)	161
77	Brown Midge	(K Brown)	161
78	Inter Red Dragon	(H Davies)	161
79	The Assassins	(D Williams)	161
80	Then United	(M Tepper)	161
81	They're Here	(N Giddings)	161
82	Star's Delights	(Mr P Johnson)	161
83	Lively Ladies	(R Walters)	161
84	Gary's Heroes	(L Minter)	161
85	Ashford Borough	(I)	161
86	Fudge's Fouters	(Mr W Donoghue)	161
87	Brad City	(Mr A Hopley)	160
88	The Young Guns	(Drichmond)	160
89	The Cattle Eaters	(S Shepherd)	160
90	Good Work Fellas	(Mr S Hughes)	160
91	Baze Brainers	(J Cook)	160
92	Bohman Forest	(Mr B Harwood)	160
93	Beardley's Hair	(S Burn)	160
94	Disaster Area	(Mr P Johnson)	160
95	Waiting Warriors	(P Potage)	160
96	Hera We Go	(P Sharke)	160
97	Sporting Sliders	(Mr S Smith)	160
98	Roker Flowers	(K Doughty)	160
99	Shrew Voles	(A Nelson)	160
100	Dennis Dynamos 2	(H Brown)	160
101	Forest Delights	(L Gadd)	159
102	Grove Rovers	(G Foster)	159
103		(J Elkins)	159
104		(T Townsend)	159

110	Willington United	(W Liu)	158
111	Stevens Lions 2	(S Brewer)	158
112	Weldon Wanderers FC	(S Lee)	158
113	Burnham Green 'E'	(Mr D Chapman)	158
114	Malcolm Hall XI	(C Wilcox)	158
115	Goals Please 1985-96	(A Gough)	158
116	Finchamps Return	(K Davlin)	158
117	Partizan Beograd 1	(Mr D Stokovic)	158
118	The Butler	(S Umarjev)	158
119	S M Balance 5	(S Mullan)	158
120	Burnley Bounce Back	(L McNally)	158
121	Fantasy Flops?	(J Neale)	158
122	Robbie's Rovers	(R Dick)	158
123	Donny's Dream	(H Matthews)	158
124	Murphy's Law	(C Wright)	158
125	Parissians	(E Donaki)	158
126	Eaton Forgers	(M Davison)	158
127	Neurast	(P Gory)	158
128	Hornet Athletics	(M Scofield)	158
129	Dave's Dribblers	(D Hart)	158
130	Sack A Ferguson	(Mrs E A Crossley)	158
131	Wallace & Gromit FC	(Mr S Hyams)	158
132	Home Park Heroes	(Mrs J MacKerzie)	158
133	Interactive Milan	(K Fingleton)	158
134	Annette's Answers	(A Smith)	158
135	Francis Caldwell FC	(F Caldwell)	158
136	Rocks Rovers	(S Rock)	158
137	Champion 1985-96	(A McCull)	158
138	Twinklons Two	(J Brown)	158
139	2 Good 4 U	(J Spurling)	158
140	Rovers FC	(D Summerhall)	158
141	Radcar	(G Thompson)	158
142	Hirani's 1st 11	(R Hirani)	158
143	M S Alstars	(M Shayan)	158
144	Mac United	(T McCusker)	158
145	Golden Boots	(A Marshall)	158
146	Forman's Finest	(A Forman)	158
147	Zappas Allstars	(Mr S Williams)	158
148	Unlikely Lads	(P Cox)	158
149	Ramsey Rovers	(S Hill)	158
150	Some Hope Ltd	(M Hargre)	158
151	Dylawerly Mill	(A Burrell)	158
152	Somersetshire FC	(Dr Owen)	158
153	Barnet FC	(M Smith)	158
154	Merts Maths 20	(Mr P Johnson)	158
155	Percy Pussycats	(Mr M Hild)	158
156	Lancers United	(G Trzinski)	158
157	Porn Stars 3	(Mr M McRae)	158
158	Sanful Bankers	(D Jones)	158
159	Notre End Heroes	(Mr C Alvarino)	158
160	ADP Sign Shewer	(Mrs S Cooley)	158
161	Razzall 1	(Mr C Barr)	158
162	Castle Street Boot Boy	(Mr J Johnson)	158
163	Poundewick Pupils	(D Stiles)	158
164	Chloe Boys	(J McCurley)	158
165	Derby United	(J Plater)	158
166	TLT Ltd	(R Taylor)	158
167	Nervous FC	(R O'Connor)	158
168	Garlic Bread	(Mr J Donovan)	158
169	Truffle Hunt XI	(D Collier)	158
170	Garden FC	(Mr D Parke)	158
171	The Wee One Too	(K Wan)	158
172	Jaynes Jags	(A Nelson)	158
173	The Hotspotters	(K Hughes)	158
174	Hull Red Devils	(L Gadd)	158
175	The UK Beavers	(G Foster)	158
176	Cable Coppers	(J Elkins)	158

59	175	Scratchers	(J Wakefield)
59	176	We're Not Boring	(W Gadd)
59	177	The James Gang	(A Norton)
59	178	Rovers Rangers	(T Hodgkinson)
59	179	Penia Pussies	(K Hodgkinson)
59	180	Speedy Mode	(S Newman)
59	181	QPR Auctioneers A	(S Kampher)
59	182	Runwatchingmaniac	(M Hawkins)
59	183	Guilt Ltd	(A Culpin)
59	184	The X Men	(M Walker)
59	185	Best United	(B Pandey)
59	186	Long Live The Queen	(L Wilson)
59	187	Map 6	(M Proulx)
59	188	Gothic Gods 26	(Mr R Gohl)
59	189	Barnet Buy Cole	(Mr P Johnson)
59	190	Mathematicians E	(S Draper)
59	191	Elm Park Aphids	(Mr J Pelly)
59	192	Staten Orient	(J Clay)
59	193	Morrison Masters	(A Morrison)
59	194	AC Dundee	(F McDonald)
59	195	Martinez 4	(T Martin)
59	196	Vip Man Rovers	(M Garner)
59	204	G Force	(W Gayle)
59	204	Netbusters	(C B Mitchell)
59	204	Only Can Save	(M McInown)
59	204	Zinc Alloy	(D Rooney)
59	204	Miss Sams	(S Siles)
59	204	Wicks Still Monsters	(M Melkrum)
59	204	Kiss Kickers	(G Sutton)
59	204	Mercury	(Dabwood)
59	204	Rotties Team	(R Whait)
59	204		(S Newman)
59	204	Wallace Wanderers	(B Hough)
59	204	The Westies	(K Ward)
59	204	Geordie Jackpot	(P Neabitt)
59	204	Jackpot For Shaw	(Mr D Shaw)
59	204	Inker William 3	(S Sharp)
59	204	BNS Voice	(S Ghanswala)
59	204	The March March	(Mr A Marshall)
59	204	Worst The Post	(Mr P Farwell)
59	204	Swiss Meet Stars 95	(F Smith)
59	204	Shaker Hishop FC	(A Easton)
59	204	Day's Dreams	(D Day)
59	204	Real Athletic	(Mrs G Keynes)
59	204	Sheep's Super Squad	(T Shephard)
59	204	The Criminal Element	(A Simard)
59	204	Road's Rangers	(P Evans)
59	204	SIN City	(J Sanderson)
59	204	SPRING Allstar XI	(S Potts)
59	204	Martinez 5	(T Martin)
59	204	Goats Galore	(S Lawton)
59	204	Power House	(M Jones)
59	204	Moorville Farm	(G Delmonico)
59	204	Novocastrians	(E Donald)
59	204	McFC	(M Close)
59	204	Lynette Line Up	(L Ramonworthy)
59	204	Dominus Doughnuts	(D Bury)
59	204	Newco FC	(M Volant)
59	204	Crysalis Eagles	(Mr B Brook)
59	204	Anti-Saints	(J Lowson)
59	204	Widely City	(I Hamson)
59	204	Bulham 1989	(A Tyler)
59	204	Woolfington AFC	(Mr D Wainor)
59	204	Carvelco	(Mr M Burgess)
59	204	Bulfin Butlers	(A Byles)
59	204	The Specialists	(J Maye)
59	204	Maggie's Marvels	(M Welsh)
59	204	Chumpdolls	(T Hibbs)
59	204	AC Tora Tora	(Mr G Atkinson)

